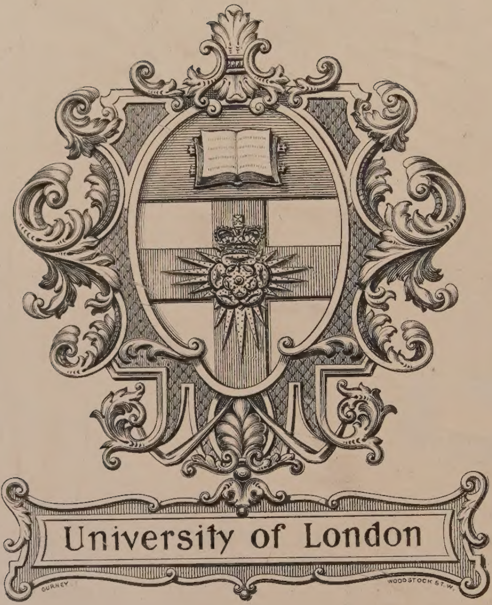
THIS BOOK
MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LIBRARY

REFERENCE ONLY

PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE. ONLY.


University of London
GURNEY
WOODSTOCK ST. W.

616949

THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

6 EDWARD VII.

## VOLUME CLXIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF OCTOBER
TO THE SECOND DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1906.

TWELFTH VOLUME OF SESSION

1906.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

8472

# CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

## HISTORY.

**CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.**

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 WILL. I. to 34 GEO. II.
1066-1760

**REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.**

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 GEO. III. to 40 GEO. III.
1760-1800

### (FIRST PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 35 | .........41 | GEO. III. | .........1801 |
| — 36 | .........42 | — | .........1802 |

### (SECOND PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 36 | .........42 | GEO. III. | ......1802-3 |

---

## DEBATES.

### *First Series.*

### (SECOND PARLIAMENT—*continued.*)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 1 & 2 | ...44 | GEO. III. | ......1803-4 |
| — 3 to 5 | ...45 | — | ...... 1805 |
| — 6 & 7 | ...46 | — | ...... 1806 |

### (THIRD PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 8 & 9 | ...47 | GEO. III. | ......1806-7 |

### (FOURTH PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 9 to 11 | ...48 | GEO. III. | ......1807-8 |
| — 12 — 14 | ...49 | — | ...... 1809 |
| — 15 — 17 | ...50 | — | ...... 1810 |
| — 18 — 20 | ...51 | — | ... 1810-11 |
| — 21 — 23 | ...52 | — | ...... 1812 |

### (FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 24 to 26 | ...53 | GEO. III. | ... 1812-13 |
| — 27 & 28 | ...54 | — | ... 1813-14 |
| — 29 to 31 | ...55 | — | ... 1814-15 |
| — 32 — 34 | ...56 | — | ...... 1816 |
| — 35 & 36 | ...57 | — | ...... 1817 |
| — 37 — 38 | ...58 | — | ...... 1818 |

### (SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 39 & 40 | ...59 | GEO. III. | ...... 1819 |
| — 41 | .........60 | — | ... 1819-20 |

### *Second Series.*

**REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830.**

### (SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 1 to 3 | ... 1 | GEO. IV. | ..... 1820 |
| — 4 & 5 | ... 2 | — | ...... 1821 |
| — 6 — 7 | ... 3 | — | ...... 1822 |
| — 8 — 9 | ... 4 | — | ...... 1823 |
| — 10 — 11 | ... 5 | — | ...... 1824 |
| — 12 — 13 | ... 6 | — | ......1825-6 |
| — 14 — 15 | ... 7 | — | ...... 1826 |

### (EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. 16 | ......... 7 | GEO. IV. | ...... 1826 |
| — 17 | ......... 8 | — | ...... 1827 |
| — 18 & 19 | ... 9 | — | ...... 1828 |
| — 20 — 21 | ...10 | — | ...... 1829 |
| — 22 to 25 | ...11 | — | ... .. 1830 |

## *Third Series.*

## REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

### (Ninth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 1 to 3 | 1 | Will. IV. | 1830-1 |

### (Tenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 4 to 8 | 2 | Will. IV. | 1832 |
| — | 9 — 14 | 3 | — | 1831 |

### (Eleventh Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 15 to 20 | 4 | Will. IV. | 1833 |
| — | 21 — 25 | 5 | — | 1834 |

### (Twelfth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 26 to 30 | 6 | Will. IV. | 1835 |
| — | 31 — 35 | 7 | — | 1836 |
| — | 36 — 38 | 8 | — | 1837 |

## REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.

### (Thirteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 39 to 44 | 1 | Victoria | 1838 |
| — | 45 — 50 | 2 | — | 1839 |
| — | 51 — 55 | 3 | — | 1840 |
| — | 56 — 58 | 4 | — | (a) 1841 |

### (Fourteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 59 | 4 | Victoria | (b) 1841 |
| — | 60 to 65 | 5 | — | 1842 |
| — | 66 — 71 | 6 | — | 1843 |
| — | 72 — 76 | 7 | — | 1844 |
| — | 77 — 82 | 8 | — | 1845 |
| — | 83 — 88 | 9 | — | 1846 |
| — | 89 — 94 | 10 | — | (a) 1847 |

### (Fifteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 95 | 10 | Victoria | (b) 1847 |
| — | 96 to 101 | 11 | — | 1848 |
| — | 102 — 107 | 12 | — | 1849 |
| — | 108 — 113 | 13 | — | 1850 |
| — | 114 — 118 | 14 | — | 1851 |
| — | 119 — 122 | 15 | — | (a) 1852 |

### (Sixteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 123 | 15 | Victoria | (b) 1852 |
| — | 124 to 129 | 16 | — | 1853 |
| — | 130 — 135 | 17 | — | 1854 |
| — | 136 — 139 | 18 | — | 1855 |
| — | 140 — 143 | 19 | — | 1856 |
| — | 144 | 20 | — | (a) 1857 |

### (Seventeenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 145 to 147 | 20 | Victoria | (b) 1857 |
| — | 148 — 151 | 21 | — | 1858 |
| — | 152 — 153 | 22 | — | (a) 1859 |

### (Eighteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 154 to 155 | 22 | Victoria | (b) 1859 |
| — | 156 — 160 | 23 | — | 1860 |
| — | 161 — 164 | 24 | — | 1861 |
| — | 165 — 168 | 25 | — | 1862 |
| — | 169 — 172 | 26 | — | 1863 |
| — | 173 — 176 | 27 | — | 1864 |
| — | 177 — 180 | 28 | — | 1865 |

### (Nineteenth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 181 to 184 | 29 | Victoria | 1866 |
| — | 185 — 189 | 30 | — | 1867 |
| — | 190 — 193 | 31 | — | 1867-8 |

### (Twentieth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 194 to 198 | 32 | Victoria | 1868-9 |
| — | 199 — 203 | 33 | — | 1870 |
| — | 204 — 208 | 34 | — | 1871 |
| — | 209 — 213 | 35 | — | 1872 |
| — | 214 — 217 | 36 | — | 1873 |

### (Twenty-First Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 218 to 221 | 37 | Victoria | 1874 |
| — | 222 — 226 | 38 | — | 1875 |
| — | 227 — 231 | 39 | — | 1876 |
| — | 232 — 236 | 40 | — | 1877 |
| — | 237 — 242 | 41 | — | 1878 |
| — | 243 — 249 | 42 | — | 1878-9 |
| — | 250 & 251 | 43 | — | (a) 1880 |

### (Twenty-Second Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 252 to 256 | 43 | Victoria | (b) 1880 |
| — | 257 — 265 | 44 | — | 1881 |
| — | 266 — 273 | 45 | — | (a) 1882 |
| — | 274 & 275 | 45 | — | (b) 1882 |
| — | 276 to 283 | 46 | — | 1883 |
| — | 284 — 292 | 47 | — | 1884 |
| — | 293 — 301 | 48 | — | 1884-5 |

### (Twenty-Third Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 302 to 307 | 49 | Victoria | (a) 1886 |

### (Twenty-Fourth Parliament.)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vol. | 308 & 309 | 49 | Victoria | (b) 1886 |
| — | 310 to 321 | 50 | — | 1887 |
| — | 322 — 332 | 51 | — | 1888 |
| — | 333 — 340 | 52 | — | 1889 |
| — | 341 — 348 | 53 | — | 1890 |
| — | 349 — 356 | 54 | — | 1890-1 |

### *Fourth Series.*

(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 1 to 6...55 VICTORIA ......1892

(TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 7 .........56 VICTORIA ......1892
— 8 to 21...57 — ... 1893-4
— 22 — 29...57 — ......1894
— 30 — 35...58 — ......1895

(TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 36 .........59 VICTORIA ......1895
— 37 to 44...59 — ... 1895-6
— 45 — 52...60 — ......1897
— 53 — 65...61 — ......1898
— 66 — 76...62 — ......1899
— 77 .........63 — ......1899
— 78 — 83...63 — ......1900
— 84 ... 63 & 64 — ......1900
— 85 — 87...64 — ......1900

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 88 .........64 VICTORIA ......1900

### REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 89 ......... 1 EDWARD VII....1901
— 90 to 100 1 — ...1901
— 101 ... 1 & 2 — ...1902
— 102 to 117 2 — ...1902
— 118 to 128 3 — ...1903
— 129 to 140 4 — ...1904
— 141 to 151 5 — ...1905

(TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 152 to 163 6 EDWARD VII....1906

# HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, Etc.

## SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION, DECEMBER 1905.

### THE CABINET.

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury——Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.
Lord President of the Council——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Crewe.
Lord Chancellor——Rt. Hon. Lord Loreburn.
Chancellor of the Exchequer——Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.
Secretaries of State——
  Home Department——Rt. Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone, M.P.
  Foreign Affairs——Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bt., M.P.
  Colonial Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
  War Office——Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P.
  India Office——Rt. Hon. John Morley, M.P.
First Lord of the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Lord Chancellor of Ireland——Not in the Cabinet.
Chief Secretary for Ireland——Rt. Hon. James Bryce, M.P.
Lord Privy Seal——Most. Hon Marquess of Ripon.
President of the Board of Education——Rt. Hon. A. Birrell, M.P.
President of the Board of Trade——Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George, M.P.
President of the Local Government Board——Rt. Hon. John Burns, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture——Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.
Postmaster-General——Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Fowler, M.P.
The Secretary for Scotland——Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair, M.P.

### NOT IN THE CABINET.

Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office——Lord Fitzmaurice.
Under Secretary of State, Home Office——Herbert Samuel, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office——Winston Churchill, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, India Office——Rt. Hon. J. E. Ellis, M.P.
Under Secretary of State, War Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Portsmouth.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury——George Whiteley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education——Thomas Lough, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. E. Robertson, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade——H. E. Kearley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board——Walter Runciman, Esq., M.P.
Financial Secretary to the Treasury——Reginald McKenna, Esq., M.P.
Financial Secretary to the War Office——T. R. Buchanan, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Treasury——
  J. A. Pease, Esq., M.P.
  Herbert Lewis, Esq., M.P.
  Captain Cecil Norton, M.P.
  J. M. F. Fuller, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Admiralty——
  Admiral Sir John Fisher.
  Vice-Admiral Sir C. C. Drury.
  Captain H. B. Jackson.
  Captain F. S. Inglefield.

Army Council——
  The Secretary of State for War [*in the Cabinet*].
  Lieut.-General Hon. Sir W. G. Lyttelton.
  Lieut.-General C. W. H. Douglas.
  Lieut.-General Sir W. G. Nicholson.
  Major-General Sir J. W. Murray.
  The Under Secretary of State for War.
  The Financial Secretary to the War Office.
  *Secretary.* The Permanent Under Secretary of State for War (Colonel Sir E. W. D. Ward).

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty——George Lambert, Esq., M.P.
Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen.
The Lord Advocate——Thomas Shaw, Esq., M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——In the Cabinet.
Attorney-General——J. Lawson Walton, Esq., M.P.
Solicitor-General——W. S. Robson, Esq., M.P.
Paymaster-General——R. K. Causton, Esq., M.P.

## OTHER OFFICERS OF STATE.

Lord Steward——Rt. Hon. Earl of LIVERPOOL.
Comptroller of the Household——The Master of ELIBANK, M.P.
Treasurer of the Household——Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Bt., M.P.
Lord Chamberlain——Rt. Hon. Viscount ALTHORP.
Vice-Chamberlain——WENTWORTH BEAUMONT, Esq., M.P.
Master of the Horse——Rt. Hon. Earl of SEFTON.
Captain Yeoman of the Guard——His Grace the Duke of MANCHESTER.
Lords-in-Waiting——
- Earl GRANVILLE.
- Earl of GRANARD.
- Lord HAMILTON of DALZELL.
- Lord ACTON.
- Lord DENMAN.
- Lord COLEBROOKE.
- Lord SUFFIELD.

Judge Advocate-General——T. MILVAIN, Esq., K.C.

## SCOTLAND.

Secretary for Scotland and Keeper of the Great Seal——Rt. Hon. JOHN SINCLAIR.
Lord High Constable——Earl of ERROL.
Lord Privy Seal——
Master of the Household——Duke of ARGYLL, K.T.
Lord High Commissioner——Lord COLEBROOKE.
Lord Clerk Register——His Grace the Duke of MONTROSE, K.T.
Lord Justice General——
Lord Advocate——Rt. Hon. THOMAS SHAW, K.C.
Lord Justice Clerk——Rt. Hon. Lord KINSBURGH, C.B.
Solicitor-General——ALEXANDER URE, Esq., K.C.
Register General and Deputy Keeper Great Seal—Sir STAIR AGNEW, K.C.B.
Commanding Forces——Lt.-Gen. E. P. LEACH, C.B., C.V.O.

## IRELAND.

Lord-Lieutenant——Earl of ABERDEEN, G.C.M.G.
Chief Secretary and Keeper of Privy Seal——Rt. Hon. JAMES BRYCE, M.P.
Under Secretary——Rt. Hon. Sir A. MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.
Private Secretaries——Lord HERSCHELL and WALTER CALLAN, Esq.
State Steward and Chamberlain——Viscount HAWKESBURY, M.V.O.
Controller to the Lord-Lieutenant's Household——Viscount POWERSCOURT, M.V.O.
Lord Chancellor——Lord Justice WALKER.
Attorney-General——Rt. Hon. R. R. CHERRY, K.C.
Solicitor-General——REDMOND BARRY, Esq., K.C.
Commanding the Forces——Gen. Lord GRENFELL, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

# PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Chairman of Committees——Rt. Hon. Earl of Onslow.
Clerk of Parliaments——Sir Henry J. L. Graham, K.C.B.
Deputy Clerk of Parliaments (Clerk Assistant)——Hon. E. P. Thesiger, C.B.
Reading-Clerk and Clerk of Outdoor Committees——Edward Hall Alderson, Esq
Counsel to the Chairman of Committees——Albert Gray, Esq.
Chief Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills——A. Harrison, Esq.
Senior Clerks——
  Principal Clerk, Judicial Department, and Taxing Officer of Judicial Costs——J. F. Skene, Esq.
  Clerk of the Journals——W. A. Leigh, Esq.
  Principal Clerk of Private Committees——J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.
  Peers' Printed Paper Office——C. L. Anstruther, Esq.
  W. H. Hamilton Gordon, Esq.
Other Clerks——Hon. A. McDonnell; A. H. Robinson, Esq. (Clerk of Private Bills); H. P. St. John, Esq.; V. M. Biddulph, Esq.; Hon. E. A. Stonor; H. J. F. Badeley, Esq.; C. Headlam, Esq.; J. B. Hotham, Esq.; E. C. Vigors, Esq.; A. Tennyson, Esq.; and G. D. Luard, Esq.
Receiver of Fees and Accountant——T. A. Court, Esq.
Copyists——Mr. H. P. Norris and Mr. R. A. Court.
Messengers——Messrs. A. A. Worfell, C. E. Chizlett, A. N. Stoll, J. W. F. Locke, J. McMillan, G. Bennett, G. T. Philip.
Librarian——Edmund Gosse, Esq., LL.D.
Assistant Librarian——A. H. M. Butler.
Attendant——Mr. W. Worfell.
Examiners for Standing Orders——C. W. Campion, Esq.; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.; Clerk——H. C. Bramwell, Esq.
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod——Admiral Sir F. H. Stephenson, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Yeoman Usher——Captain T. D. Butler, M.V.O.
Serjeant-at-Arms——Lt.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir Fleetwood I. Edwards, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms——S. Hand, Esq.
Resident Superintendent——J. K. Williams, Esq.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
Principal Doorkeepers——Messrs. W. Chandler, E. Fox, F. Holman.
First Class Assistants——Messrs. C. Walker, J. Hedley, J. Lane, B. Gallop.
Second Class Assistants——Messrs. H. B. Strevens, G. W. Cross, W. Stopp.
Third Class Assistants——Messrs. J. Woolacott, A. A. Edney, J. F. Baum.
Messengers——Messrs. A. J. Solman, C. Chapman, W. Phillips, W. W Meates, T. Whitehead.
Superintendent of Refreshment Rooms——Mr. W. Casbon.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Lords——Mr. A. Palmer.
Clerk of the Works, Houses of Parliament——Mr. C. J. Williams.
Resident Engineer, Houses of Parliament——Mr. A. P. Patey.

# PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Clerk of the House of Commons——Sir Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
Clerk-Assistant——Arthur W. Nicholson, Esq.
Second Clerk-Assistant——T. L. Webster, Esq.
Principal Clerks——
  Public Bill Office, and Clerk of Fees——W. Gibbons, Esq., C.B.
  Clerk of the Journals——W. H. Ley, Esq.
  Committee Office——F. St. George Tupper, Esq.
  Private Bill Office——J. H. W. Somerset, Esq.
Senior Clerks——H. C. Tower, Esq.; C. V. Frere, Esq.; G. C. Giffard, Esq.; Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart., S. L. Simeon, Esq.; Arthur I. Dasent, Esq.
Assistant Clerks——Horace West, Esq.; Henry A. Ferguson-Davie, Esq.; Arthur H. Ellis, Esq.; Percy A. Bull, Esq.; F. R. Williams Wynn, Esq.; W. E. Grey, Esq.; F. C. Holland, Esq.; J. W. G. Bond, Esq.; H. C. Dawkins, Esq.; R. P. Colomb, Esq.
Junior Clerks——B. H. Fell, Esq.; R. E. Childers, Esq.; J. Scott Porter, Esq., F. C. Bramwell, Esq.; W. T. Legge, Esq.; C. R. Turner, Esq.; W. K. Gibbons, Esq.; K. J. C. Moorsom, Esq.; R. D. Radcliffe, Esq.; W. P. Johnston, Esq.; J. Barlow, Esq.; Hon. H. R. C. Balfour.

Serjeant-at-Arms——H. D. Erskine, Esq., C.V O.
Deputy Serjeant——F. R. Gosset, Esq.
Assistant Serjeant——W. H. Erskine, Esq.
Office Messenger——Mr. C. J. H. Shearn.
Chaplain to the House——The Ven. Archdeacon Basil Wilberforce, D.D.
Secretary to the Speaker——Hon. Edward Gully, C.B.
Counsel to the Speaker——Hon. Sir E. Chandos Leigh, K.C., K.C.B.
Trainbearer——Mr. W. Murrell.
Messenger——Mr. W. Holt.
Collector of Fees on Private Bills——C. L. Lockton, Esq.
Clerk to Referees——Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart.
Examiners of Private Bills——C. W. Campion, Esq. ; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq
Taxing Master——C. W. Campion, Esq. ; Clerk——F. C. Bramwell, Esq.
Vote Office——
    Principal Clerk——Philip Smith, Esq.
    Assistant Clerks——John Poyser, Esq. ; W. K. Sanderson, Esq.
    Messenger——Mr. John Edwards.
Librarian——R. C. Walpole, Esq. ; Assistant Librarian——A. E. A. W. Smyth, Esq. Clerks in Library——Messrs. J. R. Crimp, Wm. Stewart ; Messengers——Messrs. A. Firmin, W. Hague.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
Printers——
    Journals——G. E. Briscoe Eyre, Esq.
    Votes——J. B. Nichols, Esq.
Postmaster——Mr. I. Lincoln ; Hall Keeper——Mr. J. Glynn.
Office Keeper——Mr. H. Bullock.
Office Clerk in Committee Office——Mr. T. Fielden Mitchell.
Office Clerk in Journal Office——Mr. A. A. Taylor.
Messengers——Messrs. C. Davie, H. Jones, G. D. Weller, J. Armstrong, J. Woodward, J. Ivory, G. Norman, J. Surrey, A. Sepple.
Doorkeepers——Mr. M. Inglefield and Mr. H Hambling.
Messengers (1st Class)——Mr. C. Woodcraft, Mr. R. Robertson, Mr. J. Hills, Mr. J. Sprague, Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. T. B. Spray, Mr. G. Anstey, Mr. J. H. Day, Mr. J. Henderson,
Messengers (2nd Class)——Messrs. G. Wainwright, J. Guyatt, R. Turtle, A. Haskell, A. C. Johnson, G. Clapperton, H. E. Linington, H. G. Emmett, J. L. Philip, W. Findlay.
Superintendent of Members' Waiting Room——Mr. J. F. Henley ; Assistant——Mr. W. Broadbent ; Porters——Messrs. J. Oram and J. Hart.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Commons——Mr. Scantlebury.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

# VOLUME CLXIII.

---

## TWELFTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

---

Page

### HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1906.

VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH.—Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of George Bagot, Viscount Molesworth and Baron Phillipstown, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1

The Duke of RUTLAND sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

Several Lords took the Oath.

The Lord MASHAM sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

Archibald Lord Bishop of Exeter was (in the usual manner) introduced.

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; of trustees of Church of England schools in the diocese of Peterborough (7); teachers in schools in the diocese of Peterborough; parishioners of St. George's, Leicester; parishioners of St. Mary's, Leicester; trustees of Church of England schools at Narborough; Mowsley; inhabitants of Coalville; Tithmarsh; Caterham; Ashwell; parish of Ayston; Whitwell; Whissendene; Glooston; Stretton; Oakham; Pickworth; parish of Brooke; North Luffenham; Glaston; Empyngham; Preston; St. Cuthbert's, Durham; Edith, Weston; Greetham; Burley; Egerton; St. George's, Wigan; Market Overton; Essendine; Morcott; Seaton; Pilton; Cottesmore; Barrow; Egleton; Little Casterton and Tolethorpe; Clipsham; Tinwell; Langham; Bramston; Ridlington; Teigh; Hambleton; Wardley; Uppingham; Stoke-Dory; Manton; Exton; Byhall; Wing, Rutlandshire; Belton; Normanton; Bisbrooke; St. Bartholomew's, Bethnal Green; St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, E.C.; All Saints, Haggerston; Bolney; Bardwell, Suffolk; Barrow-on-Soar (3); and Bentley; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 2

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious instruction in schools; of inhabitants of the parishes of Worthing and district; Leicester; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. 2

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

## *PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS* (*RECESS*).

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz. :—

COLONIES I. (ANNUAL).

No. 489. Seychelles (Report for 1905). (August 8.)
No. 490. Falkland Islands (Report for 1905). (August 10.)
No. 491. Gambia (Report for 1905). (August 16.)
No. 492. Jamaica (Report for 1904–1905). (August 22.)
No. 493. Northern Territories of the Gold Coast (Report for 1905). (August 23.)
No. 494. Ceylon (Report for 1905). (August 27.)
No. 495. Turks and Caicos Islands (Report for 1905). (September 18.)
No. 496. Bahamas (Report for 1905–1906). (September 19.)
No. 497. Barbados (Report for 1905–1906). (September 21.)
No. 498. Malta Report for 1905–1906). (October 2.)
No. 499. British Central Africa Protectorate (Report for 1905–1906). (October 6.)
No. 500. Surveys and Explorations of British Africa (Annual Report of the Colonial Survey Committee. First year to August, 1906). (October 9.)
No. 501. Grenada (Report for 1905.) (October 12.)
No. 502. Straits Settlements (Report for 1905). (October 12.)
No. 503. Gibraltar (Report for 1905). (October 15.)
No. 504. Trinidad and Tobago (Report for 1905–1906). (October 19.) .. 3

GENERAL.

II. Statement showing the total amount contributed by the colonies, dependencies, and protectorates to the upkeep of the Imperial Institute from the date of its formation to 31st March, 1906. (August 14.) .. 4

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

I. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1905. (August 9.)

II. Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), together with Reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into. (September 4.)

China, No. I. (1906).—Correspondence relating to the Decree issued by the Chinese Government on 9th May, 1906, respecting the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. (August 10.) .. .. .. .. .. 4

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

Trade Reports—I. Annual Series.

No. 3685. Ecuador. (August 10.)
No. 3686. Guatemala.
No. 3687. China (Kiungchow). (August 14.)
No. 3688. Russia (Riga).
No. 3689. Argentine Republic (Finances for 1905 and part of 1906).
No. 3690. China (Ningpo).
No. 3691. China (Wenchow).
No. 3692. China (Pakhoi).
No. 3693. Mexico (Mexican Budget for 1906–1907). (August 16.)
No. 3694. Germany (Dantzig).
No. 3695. Siam (Chiengmai).
No. 3696. Austria-Hungary. (August 17.)
No. 3697. Morocco (Trade of the Consular District of Dar-al-Baida for 1905). (August 22.)
No. 3698. Chile (Trade for 1905).
No. 3699. Turkey (Trade of Damascus for 1905). (August 23.)
No. 3700. Japan (Trade of Nagasaki for 1905).
No. 3701. China (Trade of Shasi for 1905. (August 25.)
No. 3702. Persia (Report for 1905 on the Trade of Bunder Abbas and Lingah). (August 28.)
No. 3703. Italy (Report for 1905 on the Trade of Leghorn).
No. 3704. Portugal (Trade of Angola for 1905).
No. 3705. Turkey (Trade of Crete for 1905). (August 29.)
No. 3706. Japan (Trade of Consular District of Tainan (South Formosa) for 1905). (September 1.)
No. 3707. France (Trade of French Indo-China.)
No. 3708. China (Trade of Changsha). (September 6.)
No. 3709. Japan (Yokohama).
No. 3710. China (Foochow).
No. 3711. China (Mengtzu).
No. 3712. France (Algeria). (September 8.)
No. 3713. Brazil (Trade for 1905).
No. 2714. China (Trade of Kiukiang for 1905). (September 11.)
No. 3715. Borneo (Trade of British North Borneo for 1905.)
No. 3716. Zanzibar (Trade of Pemba for 1905). (September 14.)
No. 3717. Siam (Trade of Bangkok for 1905). (September 19.)
No. 3718. Italy (Trade of Venice for 1905–1906). (September 21.)
No. 3719. Japan (Trade of Kobe for 1905). (September 22.)
No. 3720. Belgium (Trade of Belgium for 1905 and the first half of 1906). (September 26.)
No. 3721. Chinde (Trade for 1905). (October 6.)
No. 3722. Turkey (Trade for the Consular District of Smyrna for 1905).
No. 3723. Germany (Trade and Agriculture of Bavaria for 1905 and part of 1906). (October 10.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 4

II. Miscellaneous Series.—No. 654. Cotton Culture in Corea. (September 11.) 6

India.

I. (Railways).—Administration Report on the railways in India, for the calendar year 1905, by the Railway Board. (August 10.)

II. (Sanitary Measures).—Report on sanitary measures in India in 1904–1905. Vol. XXXVIII. (September 5.)

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

III. (Statistical Abstract).—Statistical abstract relating to British India from from 1895–1896 to 1904–1905. Fortieth Number. (September 13.) 6

AGRICULTURE STATISTICS (IRELAND).

I. Return of prices of crops, live stock, and other Irish agricultural products for the year 1905. (August 14.)

II. Abstracts showing the acreage under crops and the number of live stock in each county and province of Ireland, 1905–1906. (August 28.)

III. Agricultural statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1905. (September 19.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 6

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

I. (Funds Committee).—Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the provision of funds for reformatory and industrial schools.

Vol. I. Report and Appendices.

Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence. (August 16.)

II. (Ireland).—Forty-fourth Report of the Inspector, for the year 1905. (August 23.)

III. (Great Britain).—Forty-ninth Report, for the year 1905, of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools. Part II. —General Report and Appendices III. to XI. (September 17.) .. 6

TREATY SERIES.

No. 10. (1906.)—Agreement between the United Kingdom and Chile for the Exchange of Money Orders signed at London, 30th July, 1906. (August 17.)

No. 11. (1906.)—Treaty between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua with regard to the Mosquito Territory; signed at Managua, 19th April, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906.)

No. 12. (1906.)—Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua; signed at Managua, 28th July, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906).

No. 13. (1906.)—Convention between the United Kingdom and Japan respecting Commercial Relations between Canada and Japan; signed at Tokio, 31st January, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at Tokio, 12th July, 1906.)

No. 14. (1906.)—Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting the delimitation of the Frontier between the British and French Possessions to the East of the Niger; signed at London, 29th May, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged in London, 29th August, 1906.) (September 13.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 7

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

CANADA—WEST INDIES.—Agreements between the Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black for a steamship service between Canada and the West Indies. (August 21.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 7

CROFTER COLONISATION.—Fifteenth Report of His Majesty's Commissioners appointed to carry out a scheme of colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. (August 24.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 7

WEST INDIES.—Contract between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for Inter-Colonial steamship services between certain Colonies in the West Indies. (August 25.) .. .. 7

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—Statistics of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1905. (September 3.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 8

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—I. Report of the Estates Commissioners, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, and for the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906. (September 3.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 8

II. Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of March, 1906. (September 5.) .. .. .. .. .. 8

INEBRIATE RETREATS (IRELAND.)—Second Report (with appendices) of the Inspector for Ireland, for the year 1905. (September 4.) .. .. .. 8

EGYPT NO. 4 (1906).—Further Paper respecting the attack on British officers at Denshawai (in continuation of Egypt No. 3 (1906) ). (September 5.) 8

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905. (September 6.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 8

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND).—Report of the Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1906. (September 10.) .. .. .. .. .. 8

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).—Thirty-eighth Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Records, for the year 1905. (September 10.) .. .. .. .. 8

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.—Annual Report of the President, for the year 1905–1906. (September 11.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 8

LUNACY (IRELAND).—Fifty-fifth Report of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland, for the year 1905. (September 11.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 8

NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS.—Report of the British Delegates attending the meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at Amsterdam in 1906, and reports relating thereto (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2966], 1906), (September 12.) .. .. 8

TRISTAN-DA-CUNHA.—Further correspondence relating to the Island of Tristan-da-Cunha (in continuation of [Cd. 1600], June, 1903). (September 13.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 9

Oct. 23.] Page

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.—I. (Factory, &c., Railings and Sidings, &c.)—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Chester Jones, Esquire, on the draft regulations for locomotives and waggons on lines and sidings in or in connection with factories, workshops, &c.

II. (Manufacture of Cotton, Safeguards)—Report by H. S. Richmond, Esq., one of His Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories, on safeguards for the prevention of accidents in the manufacture of cotton. (September 15.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 9

PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1906. (September 17.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 9

MINES AND QUARRIES.—I. (Disaster at Courrières Mine, France.)—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by H. Cunynghame, Esq., C.B., and W. N. Atkinson, Esq., on the mining disaster at Courrières, Pas de Calais, France, on 10th March, 1906. (September 18.)

II. (General Report and Statistics for 1905: Part II. Labour).—General report and statistics relating to persons employed and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, and to the enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts. (October 1.)

III. (General Report and Statistics for 1905: Part III. Output).—General Report and Statistics relating to the output and value of the minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the metals produced, and the exports and imports of minerals. (October 10.)

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.)—Report on changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1905, with comparative statistics for 1896-1904. (September 18.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 10

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION).—Annual Report of proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899; the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894; the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Acts, 1893; and the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889 (Section 2, sub-section 3), for the year 1905. (September 22.) .. .. .. 10

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN (ROYAL COMMISSION).—First Report of the Commissioners; with Appendix (Statements and Returns.) (September 22.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 10

MALTA.—Despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the holdings of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd. 3024]). (September 22.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 10

EXPLOSIVES.—I. (Fire at Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending the fire which occurred at the Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall, on 20th April, 1906. (September 25.)

II. (Explosion at Sedgwick, Westmorland).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred at the factory of the Sedgwick Gunpowder Co., Ltd., at Sedgwick, Westmorland, on the 23rd June, 1906. (October 2.) 10

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

Irish Land Commission.—I. (Proceedings).—Return for the months of March, April, May, and June, 1906. (September 28.)

II. (Proceedings).—Return for the month of July, 1906. (October 5.)

III. Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of April, 1906. (October 15.) .. .. .. .. .. 10

Police (Metropolis).—Report of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, for the year 1905. (October 1.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 11

Board of Education.

I. List of Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales on 1st January, 1906. (October 3.)

II. Regulations relating to the Royal College of Science, with which is incorporated the Royal School of Mines and the Royal College of Art, and to museums under the Board of Education (from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907. (October 13.)

III. Short list of books, pamphlets, and papers dealing with the subject of religious instruction in schools. (October 18.) .. .. .. 11

Canals and Waterways (Royal Commission).—First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the canals and on inland navigations of the United Kingdom; with minutes of evidence and appendices thereto, and indices. (October 3.) .. .. .. .. 11

National Education (Ireland).

I. Appendix, Section I., to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905.

II. Appendix, Section III., to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905. (October 4.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 11

Fisheries (Ireland).—Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the sea and inland fisheries of Ireland, for 1905. Part I. General Report. (October 5.) .. .. .. .. .. 11

Straits Settlements.—Reports on the Federated Malay States for 1905. (For Reports for 1904 see [Cd. 2777.], November, 1905). (October 5.) .. 11

Customs.—Customs Tariffs of the United Kingdom from 1897–1898 to 1906-1907 (in continuation of [Cd. 8706], 1897). (October 9.) .. .. .. 12

Peterhead Harbour.—Reports respecting Peterhead Harbour Works (in continuation of [Cd. 2792] ). (October 9.) .. .. .. .. .. 12

Fisheries (Scotland).—Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part III., Scientific Investigations. (October 9.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 12

Marriages, Births, and Deaths (Scotland).—Fiftieth detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland of marriages, births and deaths in Scotland (abstracts of 1904). (October 9.) .. .. .. .. 12

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

POOR LAW REFORM COMMISSION (IRELAND).

I. Report of the Vice-Regal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland.

II. Appendix to Report.

III. Minutes of Evidence. (October 13.) .. .. .. .. .. 12

FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.—Return of the rates of import duty levied in European countries, Egypt, the United States, Mexico, Japan, China, and Persia, upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom. (October 13.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 12

AUSTRALIA.—Address to the King on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland, and the reply thereo. (October 15.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 12

SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report for the year 1906, by J. Struthers, Esq., C.B., LL.D. (October 16.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 12

POST OFFICE.—Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Crete for the exchange of money orders. (October 17.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 12

RAILWAY SIGNALMEN (HOURS OF LABOUR).—Return in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of instances in which eight-hour and ten-hour signalmen were on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than their booked hours during the month of February, 1906. (October 17.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 13

ARMY.—Approximate estimate of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903, for 1906–1907. (October 18.) .. .. 13

CYPRUS.—Annual Report for 1905–1906. (October 19.) .. .. .. .. 13

ALIENS ACT, 1905.—Return of alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ended 30th September, 1906, together with the number of expulsion orders made during that period requiring aliens to leave the United Kingdom. (October 19.)

The same were ordered to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 13

*RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION).—Annual Report for the year 1905-1906 13

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT,1 887. (EVICTION NOTICES.)—Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906 13

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Reports on Manuscripts in various collections. Vol. IV.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table. .. .. 13

LEEWARD ISLANDS.—Additional rules and regulations for the government of the prisons in the Leeward Islands. .. .. .. .. .. .. 13

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

VICTORIA (THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1906).—To abolish the separate representation in Parliament of public officers and railway officers .. .. .. 14

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).—Return of all loans raised in England under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament, chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 30th September, 1906, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, and the date of the termination of each loan, the debt incurred during the half-year, the moneys raised thereby during the half-year, the loans paid off or discharged during the half-year, and the loans outstanding at the close of the half-year, stating, so far as the public convenience will allow, the purpose or service for which moneys have been raised during the half-year .. 14

FORESHORES.—Treasury Minute, dated 4th August, 1906, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1906, in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the foreshores of the United Kingdom .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 14

POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1906).

No. 651. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 5) Warrant, 1906, dated 28th August, 1906.

No. 682. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant, 1906, dated 8th September, 1906.

No. 704. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 7) Warrant, 1906, dated 12th September, 1906.

No. 730. (Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post).—The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant, 1906, dated 26th September, 1906 .. .. .. 14

SHOP HOURS' ACT, 1904.

I.—Orders made by the Councils of the following county, county boroughs, boroughs, cities, and urban district councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective districts :—

1. County of Gloucester, within the parishes of Kingswood and Mangotsfield.
2. County borough of Newport.
3. County borough of Huddersfield.
4. Borough of Middleton.
5. Borough of Smethwick.
6. Borough of Bridlington.
7. Borough of Neath.
8. City of Bradford.
9. City of Cardiff, within the Grangetown ward of the city.
10. Urban district of Aberdare.
11. Urban district of Willesden.
12. Urban district of Hindley.
13. Urban district of Mountain Ash.

Oct. 23.] Page

II. Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland, providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops within the following burghs :—

1. Arbroath.
2. Dundee (2 orders).
3. Fort William.
4. Helensburgh.
5. Johnstone.
6. Grangemouth.
7. Falkirk.
8. Renfrew. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 14

Factory and Workshop. (Employment : Certificate of Fitness.)—Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 66 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 ; extending the provisions as to certificates of fitness to certain classes of workshops.

(Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries.) Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for use of locomotives and waggons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 15

Polling Districts.—Orders made by the County Council of the County of Surrey, sub-dividing a polling district in Kingston Parliamentary division.

County Council of the County of Surrey, constituting certain polling districts within the County.

County Council of the County of Southampton, altering certain polling districts in the Fareham Parliamentary division.

County Council of the County of Lancaster, re-dividing the Middleton Parliamentary division into polling districts.

County Council of the County of Durham, altering the name of the Pit Hill polling place to Beamish polling place .. .. .. .. .. 15

Penal Servitude Acts, 1853–1891 (Conditional Licence).—Licence granted by His Majesty to Harriet Measham, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Joseph Symms, under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853 to 1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Ada Booth, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Edith Dady, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E. .. .. .. .. .. 16

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 31st August, 1906, declaring that William Sewell, lad, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department.

Treasury Minute, dated 12th October, 1906, granting a retired allowance to Albert Bottomley, senior clerk, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887.

Treasury Minute, dated 13th August, 1906, declaring that David Clements, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department... .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 16

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Treasury warrant, dated 31st August, 1906, cancelling surplus consols purchased on account of the terminable annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature .. 17

COUNTY COURTS, ENGLAND (FEES).—Treasury order, dated 2nd August, 1906, amending the order of 30th December, 1903, regulating court fees in county courts .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 17

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Account of the receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of suitors of the court in the year ended 28th February, 1906; also account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 17

LOAN SOCIETIES.—Abstract of Accounts of loan societies in England and Wales furnished to the central office for the Registry of Friendly Societies, for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 17

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.—Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 28th February, 1906, and sealed on the 16th March, 1906, altering Statute XIII., 1, of the Statutes of the college.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 15th June, 1906, and sealed on the same day, altering Statute II., 21, and Statute IX., 3, respectively, of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Merton College, Oxford, on the 3rd March, 1906, and sealed on the 6th March, 1906, altering Statute V., 3 (b), of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, on the 4th May, 1906, and sealed on the 7th June, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 8, and Statute XVI., Clause 3, of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of All Souls' College, Oxford, on the 24th February, 1906, and sealed on the 31st March, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 7, of the Statutes of the college.

Oct. 23.] Page

Statute made by the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge, and sealed on the 23rd March, 1906, altering Statute A., Chapter II., Degrees, Section 19, Affiliated Colleges, of the Statutes of the university.

Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Cambridge, on the 9th February, 1906, and sealed on the same day, repealing Statute XXXIV. of the Statutes of the college, and substituting therefor an amended Statute XXXIV.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 209) 17

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.—Accounts of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, for the year ended 1st July, 1906. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 18

CEYLON.—Correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Governor of Ceylon on the subject of irrigation works in that island. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of 30th July last), and to be printed. (No. 210) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 18

**Marriage with Foreigners Bill.**—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 18

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**

*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 18
*The Lord Privy Seal* (*The Marquess of Ripon*) .. .. .. .. 19
*Lord Heneage* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 19

**Public Slaughter Houses Bill** [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order.)

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

*The Earl of Donoughmore* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 20

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 6, after the word 'any,' to insert the words 'registered or.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to, and Bill reported, as amended, to the House.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. [No. 211.]

**Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.** [Second Reading.]— [illegible]
Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*The Earl of Mayo* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 20

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Mayo.*)

*Lord Clonbrock* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 22
*The Earl of Meath* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 23
*Lord Denman* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 23
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 24

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

*The Marquess of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 24

Moved, "That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House, except for judicial business, shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Ordered, That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House, except for judicial business, shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered.

HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.—Order of the Day read for the further consideration of the Third Report from the Select Committee.

*The Chairman of Committees* (*The Earl of Onslow*) .. .. .. 25

Moved, "That the Report be now further considered."

On Question, Motion agreed to, and the remainder of the said Report agreed to.

IMPORTATION OF HORSES INTO IRELAND.

*The Earl of Mayo* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 26
*Lord Denman* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 27
*The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries* (*Earl Carrington*) 28

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA.

*Lord Ampthill* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 29
*Earl Beauchamp* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 30

EDUCATION BILL EXPENDITURE.

*Lord Avebury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 31
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 32
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 33
*Lord Wenlock* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 34
*Lord Heneage* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 35

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

**Marriage Act Amendment Bill** [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 35

House adjourned at twenty-five past Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

### PETITION.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.—Petition from Burnley, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).—The following Papers, presented by His Majesty's Command during the Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3685 to 3723. .. .. .. .. .. 36

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series).—Copy of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 654 .. .. .. .. .. 36

3. China (No. 1, 1906).—Copy of Correspondence relative to the Decree issued by the Chinese Government, on 9th May, 1906, respecting the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

4. Egypt (No. 4, 1906).—Copy of Further Papers respecting the Attack on British Officers at Denshawai .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

5. Treaty Series (No. 10, 1906).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom and Chile for the Exchange of Money Orders. Signed at London, 30th July, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

6. Treaty Series (No. 11, 1906).—Copy of Treaty between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua with regard to the Mosquito Territory. Signed at Managua, 19th April, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

7. Treaty Series (No. 12, 1906).—Copy of Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua. Signed at Managua, 28th July, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

8. Treaty Series (No. 13, 1906).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and Japan respecting Commercial Relations between Canada and Japan. Signed at Tokio, 31st January, 1906. Ratifications exchanged at Tokio, 12th July, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

9. Treaty Series (No. 14, 1906).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting the Delimitation of the Frontier between the British and French Possessions to the East of the Niger. Signed at London 29th May, 1906. Ratifications exchanged in London, 29th August, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

10. Explosions (Sedgwick, Westmorland).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred at the factory of the Sedgwick Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Sedgwick, Westmorland, on the 23rd June, 1906 .. 36

11. Explosions (Tuckingmill, Cornwall).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending the fire which occurred at the Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall, on the 20th April, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 37

12. Factory and Workshop (Factory, &c., Railways and Sidings, &c.).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Chester Jones, Esq., on the Draft Regulations for Locomotives and Waggons on Lines and Sidings in connection with Factories, Workshops, &c. .. 37

13. Factory and Workshop (Manufacture of Cotton Safeguards).—Copy of Report by H. S. Richmond, one of His Majesty's superintendent inspectors of factories, on Safeguards for the prevention of Accidents in the Manufacture of Cotton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 37

14. Mines and Quarries.—Copy of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905; Part II., Labour; General Report and Statistics relating to persons employed and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the United Kingdom, and to the enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts .. 37

15. Mines and Quarries.—Copy of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905; Part III., Output; General Report and Statistics relating to the Output and Value of the Minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the Metals produced, and the exports and imports of Minerals 37

16. Mines and Quarries (Disaster at Courriéres Mine, France).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by H. Cunynghame, Esq., C.B., and W. N. Atkinson, Esq., on the Mining Disaster at Courriéres, Pas de Calais, France, on the 10th March, 1906 .. .. .. 37

17. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Great Britain).—Copy of Forty-ninth Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools for 1905. Part II. General Report and Appendices, III. to XI. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 37

18. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Funds) Committee.—Copy of Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Provision of Funds for Reformatory and Industrial Schools. Vol. I. Report and Appendices. Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

19. Prisons (England and Wales).—Copy of Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, with Appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

20. Canals and Waterways (Royal Commission).—Copy of First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices thereto and Indexes .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

*Oct.* 23.] Page

21. Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Dublin (Royal Commission).—Copy of the First Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Statements and Returns) .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

22. Workmen's Compensation.—Copy of Statistics of Proceedings under The Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1905 .. .. .. .. .. 38

23. Police (Metropolis).—Copy of Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

24. Aliens Act, 1905.—Copy of Return of Alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending 30th September, 1906; together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period requiring Aliens to leave the United Kingdom .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

25. Railway Accidents.—Copy of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom, during the year 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. 38

26. Railway Accidents.—Copy of Returns of Accidents and Casualites as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into .. .. 38

27. Foreign Import Duties—Copy of Return of the Rates of Import Duty levied in European Countries, Egypt, the United States, Mexico, Japan, China, and Persia, upon the Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 39

28. Colonial Import Duties, 1906.—Copy of Return, relating to the Rates of Import Duties levied upon the principal and other Articles Imported into the British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates. .. .. .. 39

29. Railway Signalmen (Hours of Labour).—Copy of Return in pursuance of Section 4 of The Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of instances in which eight-hour and ten-hour Signalmen were on Duty on the Railways of the United Kingdom for more than their booked hours during the month of February, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 39

30. Board of Trade (Labour Department) (Changes in Wages, &c.).—Copy of Report on changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1905, with comparative Statistics for 1896—1904 .. 39

31. Board of Education.—Copy of Regulations relating to the Royal College of Science, with which is incorporated the Royal School of Mines, the Royal College of Art, and to Museums under the Board of Education (from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907) .. .. .. .. .. 39

32. Board of Education.—Copy of List of Books, Pamphlets, and Papers dealing with the subject of Religious Instruction in Schools.

33. Board of Education.—Copy of List of Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales on 1st January, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. 39

Page

34. Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Copy of Return of Proceedings during the months of March, April, May, June, and July, 1906 .. 39

35. National Education (Ireland).—Copy of Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1905–6. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 39

36. National Education (Ireland)—Copy of Section I. of the Appendix to the Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for the year 1905–6 .. .. .. .. .. .. 39

37. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops and the number of Live Stock in each county and province of Ireland for the year 1905–6 .. .. .. .. .. 39

38. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. 40

39. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1905 .. .. .. 40

40. Irish Land Commission (Estates Commissioners).—Copy of Report of the Estates Commissioners for the year ending 31st March, 1906, and for the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906 .. .. .. 40

41. Irish Land Commission.—Copy of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the months of March and April, 1906 40

42. Poor Law Reform Commission (Ireland).—Copy of Report of the Vice-Regal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland. Vol. I. (Report), Vol. II. (Appendix), and Vol. III. (Minutes of Evidence and Index) .. 40

43. Lunacy (Ireland).—Copy of Fifty-fifth Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. 40

44. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Ireland).—Copy of Forty-fourth Report of the Inspector for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. 40

45. Public Records (Ireland).—Copy of the Thirty-eighth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland, 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 40

46. Queen's College (Galway).—Copy of Report of the President of Queen's College (Galway) for the Session 1905–6 .. .. .. .. 40

47. Inebriate Retreats (Ireland).—Copy of Second Report, with Appendices, of the Inspector of Inebriate Retreats in Ireland for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 40

48. Congested Districts Board (Ireland).—Copy of Fifteenth Report of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland), being for the year ending 31st March, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 40

49. Fisheries (Ireland).—Copy of Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1905. Part I. General Report .. .. .. 40

Oct. 23.] *Page*

50. Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copies of Reports, Nos. 489 (Seychelles, Annual Report for 1905), 490 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1905), 491 (Gambia, Annual Report for 1905), 492 (Jamaica, Annual Report for 1904-5), 493 (Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1905), 494 (Ceylon, Annual Report for 1905), 495 (Turks and Caicos Islands, Annual Report for 1905), 496 (Bahamas, Annual Report for 1905-6), 497 (Barbados, Annual Report for 1905-6), 498 (Malta, Annual Report for 1905-6), 499 (British Central Africa Protectorate, Annual Report for 1905-6), 500 (The Surveys and Explorations of British Africa, Annual Report of the Colonial Survey Committee, First Year, to August, 1906), 501 (Grenada, Annual Report for 1905), 502 (Straits Settlements, Annual Report for 1905), 503 (Gibraltar, Annual Report for 1905), 504 (Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Report for 1905-6) .. .. .. .. .. 40

51. Australia.—Copy of Address to the King on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland and the Reply thereto .. .. .. .. .. 40

52. Canada—West Indies.—Copy of Agreements between the Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black for a Steamship Service between Canada and the West Indies .. .. .. .. .. .. 41

53. Colonies (General).—Copy of Statement showing the total amount contributed by the Colonies, Dependencies, and Protectorates to the upkeep of the Imperial Institute from the date of its formation to 31st March, 1906 41

54. Cyprus.—Copy of Annual Report for 1905-6 .. .. .. 41

55. Malta.—Copy of Despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd. 3024]) .. .. .. .. .. .. 41

56. Straits Settlements.—Copy of Reports on the Federated Malay States for 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 41

57. Tristan da Cunha.—Copy of further Correspondence relating to the Island of Tristan da Cunha (in continuation of [Cd. 1600], June, 1903) 41

58. West Indies.—Copy of Contract between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for Inter-Colonial Steamship Services between certain Colonies in the West Indies .. .. 41

59. East India (Railways).—Copy of Administration Report on the Railways in India for the year 1905, by the Railway Board .. .. 42

60. East India (Sanitary Measures).—Copy of Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1904-5 (Vol. XXXVIII) .. .. .. .. 42

61. East India (Statistical Abstract).—Copy of Statistical Abstract relating to British India from 1895-6 to 1904-5. Fortieth Number .. 42

62. Fishery Board (Scotland).—Copy of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part III. Scientific Investigations .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

63. Secondary Education (Scotland).—Copy of Report for the year 1906 by J. Struthers, Esq., C.B., LL.D. .. .. .. .. .. 42

Page

64. Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme.—Copy of Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners appointed to carry out a scheme of Colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

65. North Sea Fishery Investigations.—Copy of Report of the British Delegates attending the Meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, at Amsterdam, in 1906, and Report relating thereto 42

66. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Intelligence Division).—Copy of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899, the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894, and other Acts for the year 1905 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

67. Customs Tariffs (United Kingdom).—Copy of Customs Tariffs of the United Kingdom from 1897–8 to 1906–7 .. .. .. .. 42

68. Postal Agreement (Crete).—Copy of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Crete for the Exchange of Money Orders, dated 8th August—1st September, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

69. Births, Deaths, and Marriages (Scotland).—Copy of Fiftieth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1904) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

70. Peterhead Harbour.—Copy of Reports respecting Peterhead Harbour Works .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 42

71. Army (Military Works).—Copy of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903 .. 43

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION).—Copy presented, of Annual Report of the Imperial Institute (Indian Section) for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 43

EAST INDIA (OFFICERS) EXCHANGE COMPENSATION.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 27th June; *Sir Seymour King*]; to lie upon the Table .. 43

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).—Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in England, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 30th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325] .. .. 43

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).—Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 45

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th May; *Mr. Dillon*]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 43

*Oct* 23.] *Page*

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Cambridge, on the 9th February, 1906, repealing Statute XXXIV. of the Statutes of the College and substituting therefor an amended Statute XXXIV. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 326] .. 43

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge on the 23rd March, 1906, altering Statute A., Chapter II., Degrees, Section 19, Affiliated Colleges, of the Statutes of the University [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327] .. 44

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of Merton College, Oxford, on 3rd March, 1906, altering Statute V. 3 (b) of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328] .. .. 44

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on 28th February, 1906, altering Statute XIII. (1) of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 329] .. 44

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on 15th June, 1906, altering Statute II., 21, and Statute IX., 3, respectively, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 330] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 44

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, on 4th May, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 8, and Statute XVI., Clause 3, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 331] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 44

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of All Souls College, Oxford, on 24th February, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 7, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332] .. 44

Income Tax (Assessments).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Samuel Evans*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

Public Revenue (Interception).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 334] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

Supreme Court of Judicature.—Account presented, of Receipts and Expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the Funds of Suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1906, and of Account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of Funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 335] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 31st August, 1906, declaring that William Sewell, Lad, Royal Laboratory, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 13th August, 1906, declaring that David Clements, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 12th October, 1906, granting to Albert Bottomley, Senior Clerk, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, a retiring allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 45

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 31st August, 1906, cancelling Surplus Consols purchased on account of the Terminable Annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 45

COUNTY COURTS, ENGLAND [FEES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Order, dated 2nd August, 1906, amending the Order of 30th December, 1903, regulating Court Fees in County Courts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 46

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).—Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 5) Warrant, 1906, dated 28th August, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).—Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant, 1906, dated 8th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).—Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 7) Warrant, 1906, dated 12th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST).—Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant, 1906, dated 26th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Regulations, 1906, dated 29th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report on Manuscripts in various Collections. Vol. IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Middleton, Smethwick, and Neath, of the County Borough of Huddersfield, of the Councils of the County of Gloucester, and of the Urban Districts of Aberdare, Willesden, and Mountain Ash, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for Barbers' and Hairdressers' Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 46

*Oct.* 23.]

Page.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Cities of Bradford and Cardiff, of the County Borough of Newport, of the Borough of Bridlington, and of the Urban District of Hindley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 47

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES).—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for use of Locomotives and Waggons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 47

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES OF FITNESS).—Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 66 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the provisions as to Certificates of Fitness to certain Classes of Workshops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 47

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Durham altering the name of the Pit Hill Polling Place to Beamish Polling Place [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 47

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Southampton altering certain Polling Districts in the Fareham Parliamentary Division of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 47

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Lancaster re-dividing the Middleton Parliamentary Division into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 47

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SURREY).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Surrey constituting certain Polling Districts within the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 48

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SURREY).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Surrey subdividing a Polling District in the Kingston Parliamentary Division of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 48

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented, of licence granted to Edith Dady, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.. .. .. .. 48

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented, of licence granted to Harriet Measham, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the House of Compassion, London, S.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 48

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented, of licence granted to Joseph Symms under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853 to 1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 48

Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of licence granted to Ada Booth, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. 48

Leeward Islands.—Copy presented, of Additional Rules and Regulations for the government of Prisons in the Leeward Islands [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 48

Victoria (The Constitution Act, 1906).—Copy presented, of The Constitution Act, 1906 (Victoria) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 336] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 48

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain Shops in the Burghs of Fort William, Dundee, Johnstone, Grangemouth, Renfrew, Arbroath, Helensburgh, and Falkirk [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. 49

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.—Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. Copy of Accounts of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board for the year ending 1st July, 1906 [by Act].

Loan Societies. Abstract of Accounts of Loan Societies in England and Wales to 31st December, 1904, furnished to the Central Office for the Registry of Friendly Societies [by Act] .. .. .. .. .. 49

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

Salary of the Governor of Bermuda.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 49

Irish Harbour Boards.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 49

Post Office Servants' Committee and Abstractors (Assistant Clerks).—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. 50

Payment of Deputies for County Court Judges.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 50

Irish Deputy Lieutenants.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 51

Rates and Fares on the Castlewellan and Newcastle (County Down) Railway.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. 52

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Dock Accommodation for "Dreadnought."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. E. Robertson, Dundee) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 52

London Mail Car Drivers.—Question, Mr Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 53

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

MR. HUGH WATT.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. .. 53

EVICTED TENANTS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. .. 53

THE MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burgh) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 54

MEETING OF CONVOCATION.—Question, Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 54

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. 55

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 55

ALLEGED QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.—

*Mr. William Rutherford* (*Liverpool, West Derby*) .. .. .. .. 56

Motion made, and Question put, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw." —(*Viscount Turnour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 267. (Division List No. 319.)

WRIT ISSUED DURING THE ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. SPEAKER acquainted the House that he had issued during the Adjournment a Warrant for a New Writ for the County of Glamorgan (Mid Division) in the room of Samuel Thomas Evans, esquire, K.C. (Recorder of the Borough of Swansea) .. .. .. .. 60

NEW MEMBERS.—Samuel Thomas Evans, esquire, K.C., for County of Glamorgan (Mid Division); Edward George Hemmerde, esquire, County of Denbigh (Eastern Division) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 61

**Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill.**—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

*Mr. Williamson* (*Elgin and Nairn*) .. .. .. .. .. 63

New clause—

"In Sections five hundred and two to five hundred and nine of the principal Act shall be read so that the word 'owner' shall be deemed to include the word 'charterer.'"—(*Mr. A. Williamson.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*The Solicitor-General* (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) .. .. .. 63
*Mr. Houston* (*Liverpool, West Toxteth*) .. .. .. .. .. 64
*Mr. Austin Taylor* (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) .. .. .. .. 65
*Mr. Brodie* (*Surrey, Reigate*) .. .. .. .. .. 65
*Mr. David MacIver* (*Liverpool, Kirkdale*) .. .. .. .. 65
*Mr. Cairns* (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 65

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

Clause read a second time.

*Sir W. Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 66

Amendment proposed to the proposed new clause—

"To leave out the word 'charterer,' and insert the words 'any charterer to whom the ship is demised.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'charterer' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Houston* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 68
*Sir W. Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 67
*Mr. Bonar Law* (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) .. .. .. .. .. 67

Question put and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

*The President of the Board of Trade* (*Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 67

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words 'and on all voyages with cargo to.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

*Mr. Bonar Law* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 68
*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 71
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* (*Middlesbrough*) .. .. .. .. 72
*Sir Robert Ropner* (*Stockton*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 73
*Mr. Cairns* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 75
*Mr. Bowles* (*Lambeth, Norwood*) .. .. .. .. .. 76
*Mr. Houston* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 77
*Mr. Summerbell* (*Sunderland*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 79
*Sir W. Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 79
*Mr. David MacIver* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 82
*Mr. Evelyn Cecil* (*Aston Manor*) .. .. .. .. .. 83
*Mr. Ashley* (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) .. .. .. .. .. 85
*Mr. Jenkins* (*Chatham*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 86
*Mr. Courthope* (*Sussex, Rye*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 86
*Mr. R. Duncan* (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) .. .. .. .. .. 86
*Mr. Arnold-Forster* (*Croydon*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 87
*The Secretary to the Local Government Board* (*Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury*) 91
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* (*Worcestershire, E.*) .. .. .. 94
*Mr. Joyce* (*Limerick*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 95
*Mr. Munro Ferguson* (*Leith Burghs*) .. .. .. .. .. 96

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 90; Noes, 313. (Division List No. 320.)

*Mr. Harmood-Banner* (*Liverpool, Everton*) .. .. .. .. 99
*Sir George Doughty* (*Great Grimsby*) .. .. .. .. .. 102

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'United Kingdom,' and insert the words 'British Isles, or in British India, or in any Crown Colony.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 104
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 104
*Mr. Wyndham* (*Dover*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 105
*Mr. Claude Hay* (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) .. .. .. .. .. 106
*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 106
*Mr. David MacIver* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 107

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 108
*Mr. Carlile* (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) .. .. .. .. .. 109

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out Clause 3."

Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 109
*Mr. Stuart Wortley* (*Sheffield, Hallam*) .. .. .. .. 110
*Sir John Brunner* (*Cheshire, Northwich*) .. .. .. .. 110
*Sir Gilbert Parker* (*Gravesend*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 111
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 111

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord Balcarres* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 111
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 112

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 4, to leave out the words 'under stress of weather or for repairs.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 3, line 18, to leave out the words 'to foreign ships.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 3, line 19, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'to all foreign ships.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendments agreed to.

*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 112

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 12, to leave out Clause 11."—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Oct. 23.] Page

Question proposed, " That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 113
*Sir Gilbert Parker* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 113
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 113

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 5, line 14, after the word ' Port ' to insert ' in the British Isles or.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*).

The Amendment agreed to.

*Sir Robert Ropner* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 114
*Mr. Evelyn Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 114

Amendment proposed—

" At the end of Clause 5 to add ' This clause shall only apply to sailors, and not to firemen, cooks, or stewards. "—(*Sir Robert Ropner.*)

*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 115
*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 115
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 116
*Mr. Bonar Law* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 118
*Mr. Houston* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 119
*Mr. Claude Hay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 119

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 5, line 23, to add the words, ' Provided that where the seaman has been allowed to sign an agreement after the date on which this section comes into force, and is discharged before a superintendent or other officer, the superintendent or officer shall note the fact on his certificate of discharge in manner directed by the Board of Trade, and a superintendent or other officer shall not under this section refuse to allow a seaman who holds a certificate so noted to sign an agreement, unless the superintendent or officer considers that there are special reasons for the refusal, and in that case he shall make a special report of the matter to the Board of Trade. ' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. Ashley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 120
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 121

Amendment proposed—

" In page 6, line 20, at end to add the words ' or on any deck below a deck on which cattle are carried. ' "—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

*Oct.* 23.] Page

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. 121
*Mr. Claude Hay* .. 122
*Lord R. Cecil* .. 122
*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. 122
*Mr. Wolff (Belfast, E.)* .. 122
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. 124

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 91 ; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 321.)

*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. 127

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 7, at the end to insert the words, ' if any seaman wilfully wastes or destroys any provisions furnished in accordance with this section, he shall be liable on summary conviction to forfeit out of his wages a sum not exceeding one day's pay for each offence. ' "—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. 127

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 28 ; Noes, 261. (Division List No. 322.)

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 7, at end to insert the words, ' (3) If the master of a ship fails to furnish provisions in accordance with this section, and the court before which the case is tried consider that the failure was due to the neglect or default of the master, the master shall be liable on summary conviction, in addition to paying compensation under section one hundred and ninety-nine of the principal Act, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds. ' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, " That these words be there inserted."

*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. 131
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. 132

Question put and agreed to.

*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. 133
*Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs)* .. 134

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 11, after the word ' India ' to insert the words ' or others not accustomed to European dietary with whom an agreement is entered into providing an adequate scale of provisions suited to their needs and uses. ' "—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

*Oct.* 23.] Page

Question proposed. " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 135
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 135
*Lord Turnour (Sussex, Horsham)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 136

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. Claude Hay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 137
*Lord Castlereagh (Maidstone)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 138

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 13, after the word ' Act ' to leave out the word ' may ' and insert the word ' shall.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' may' stand part of the Bill."

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley)* 138
*Lord Balcarres* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 139
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 139
*Mr. Claude Hay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 140

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Claude Hay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 140
*Mr. Ashley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 140

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 15, after the word ' going,' to insert the words ' to or.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, " That the words ' to or ' be there inserted in the Bill."

*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 141
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 141
*Mr. Kearley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 142

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, line 22, after the word ' that ' to insert the words ' an inspection of provisions or water under this section, shall be made before shipment whenever practicable and."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 9, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words ' and that notice is given within seventy-two hours of the time fixed for the departure of the ship.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*Oct.* 23.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 27, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'if they are at a convenient place for inspection.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

*Mr. Kearley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 143

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 9, line 28, at end of line to insert the words 'without prejudice to the power of the inspector to inspect any provisions or water not specified in the notice.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 9, line 31, at end of line to insert the words 'unless the court before which the case is tried think that the finding of the inspecting officer was not justified.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 10, lines 4 and 5, to leave out 'thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and seven,' and to insert the words 'thirtieth day of June, nineteen hundred and eight.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 6, to leave out the word 'registered.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 19, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'in the case of ships of not more than two-thousand tons gross tonnage, or ships in which the crew, or the majority of the crew, provide their own provisions, either as ship's cook or as."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 23, to leave out lines 23 to 26, being Sub-section (5).—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 11, line 28, after the word 'officer,' to insert the words 'or, in case of an appeal under this section, to a court of summary jurisdiction.'"

"In page 11, line 33, after the word 'deducted,' to insert the words 'or repaid.'"

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 11, line 36, at end add, 'Where the master of a ship whose voyage terminates in the United Kingdom is aggrieved by the decision of the proper officer as to the sums to be allowed as properly chargeable on his reimbursement account, and the amount in dispute exceeds ten pounds, he may appeal from the decision of the proper officer to a court of summary jurisdiction.'"

"In page 11, line 36, at end to insert, '(4) Where during the voyage of a ship two or more seamen have been left behind, the delivery and reimbursement accounts furnished as respects each seaman may at the option of the master of the ship be dealt with, as between him and the proper officer, collectively instead of individually, and in that case the master of the ships shall be entitled to be reimbursed out of the total amount of the wages and effects of the seamen left behind the total of the amounts allowed under this section as property chargeable on the reimbursement accounts, and shall be required to deliver to the proper officer on account of wages only the sum by which the total of the amounts shown on the delivery accounts to be due on account of wages exceeds the total of the amounts allowed as properly chargeable on the reimbursement accounts.'"

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 146

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 12, line 23, after the word 'them,' to insert the words 'in respect of the voyage of the ship.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 12, line 36, at end, to insert the words, 'provided that they have given notice to the master or owner of the ship, and the master or owner has not given written notice of objection within ten days of the notice being given.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 13, line 30, after the word 'pounds,' to insert the words, 'and the master does not exercise his option to deal with the delivery and reimbursement accounts collectively.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 35, after the word 'pounds,' to insert the words, 'and the master does not exercise his option to deal with the delivery and reimbursement accounts collectively.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 147
*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 147

Oct. 23.] Page

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 14, line 1, to leave out Sub-section (12)."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the sub-section proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 35, at end to add the words '(3) This section shall not apply in the case of a foreign seaman who has been shipped at a port out of the United Kingdom and discharged at a port out of the United Kingdom.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 148
*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 148

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 6, at end to add the words 'and shall apply to foreign seamen whether they have been shipped at a port in the United Kingdom or not.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That these words be there added," put, and agreed to.

*Col. Ivor Philipps* (*Southampton*) .. .. .. .. .. 149

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, after the word 'port,' to insert the words, 'of their place of abode in the United Kingdom.'"—(*Colonel Ivor Philipps.*)

*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 149

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 23, line 14, at end to insert the words 'Provided that in the case of a seaman belonging to a British possession who has been shipped and discharged out of the United Kingdom the proper officer may treat a port in the United Kingdom as a proper return port.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment prpoposed—

> "In page 24, line 12, at end, to insert the words 'and also, where that is the case, to the fact that a British ship which is in want of men to make up its complement is about to proceed to a proper return port."—(*Mr. Lloyd George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Havelock Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 150

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 25, line 24, at end, to insert the following sub-section:—'(3) The provisions of this part of this Act, shall for the purpose of sections two hundred and sixty to two hundred and sixty-six of the Principal Act (which relate to the application of Part II. of this Act,) be construed as if they were contained in Part II. of that Act.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That this sub-section be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

*Mr. Evelyn Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 151
*Mr. D. A. Thomas (Methyr Tydvil)* .. .. .. .. .. 154

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 26, line 26, to leave out Clause 51."—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to the word 'spaces,' in line 26, stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. Joyce* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 156
*Mr. Austin Taylor* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 158
*Sir E. Boyle (Taunton)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 161
*Mr. Lloyd-George* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 162
*Mr. Bonar Law* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 164
*Mr. Morton (Sutherlandshire)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 166

Motion made and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir George Doughty*), put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

Oct. 24.] Page

## HOUSE OF LORDS: WEDNESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

### PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

**Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill.**—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read $2^{a}$; agreed to. Bill read $2^{a}$ accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 169

### PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; of parishes in Stoke-upon-Trent; Buckland Newton; Trustees of Church Schools in parish of Hartingfordbury. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. 169

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition for amendment of; of Dorsetshire Voluntary Schools Association (signed by the Secretary). Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 169

### RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS).—Statement showing number of voluntary schools, on 1st January, 1906, in urban areas with a population of 5,000 and over, in urban areas with a population of less than 5,000, and in rural areas in England and Wales respectively, and their average attendance for the statistical year ended 31st July, 1905, with approximate percentages to the total number and average attendance of all the voluntary schools in England and Wales for the same period .. .. .. .. .. .. 169

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th June, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871); together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. 170

POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1906).—No. 625. (Foreign Written Press Telegrams)—The Telegraph (Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1906, dated 16th August, 1906.

No. 731. (Money Orders)—The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Regulations, 1906, dated 29th September, 1906 .. .. .. .. 170

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).—General rules for the management of the Dundee District Asylum. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 170

**Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.**—House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

*Lord Clonbrock* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 170

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 16, to leave out from the word 'person' to the word 'shall' in line 18; and in line 20, to leave out the word 'five' and to insert the word 'six.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

*Lord Denman* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 171
*The Earl of Mayo* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 172
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 172
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 173
*The Earl of Meath* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 174
*The Earl of Shaftesbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 174
*Lord Clonbrock* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 175
*The Lord Privy Seal* (*The Marquess of Ripon*) .. .. .. .. 176
*The Earl of Mayo* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 176

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Remaining Clause agreed to, and Bill reported, without Amendment, to the House, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

---

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at quarter before Three of the Clock.

New Writ.—New Writ for the Borough of Galway, in the room of Charles Ramsay Devlin, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*) .. 177

*PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

**Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill** [Lords] (by Order)—Adjourned debate on Second Reading [9th July], further adjourned till Wednesday next .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 177

*PETITIONS.*

Agriculture Holdings (Scotland) Consolidation Bill.—Petition from Haddington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. 177

Oct. 24.] Page

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petition from Battle, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table .. .. 177

HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 177

LAND TENURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 177

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petition from South Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 177

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.—Return [presented 23rd October] to be printed. [No. 337].. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 177

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Copy presented, of Statement showing number of Voluntary Schools on 1st January, 1906, in Urban Areas with a population of 5,000 and over, in Urban Areas with a population of less than 5,000, and in Rural Areas in England and Wales respectively, and the average attendance for the Statistical year ended 31st July, 1905, with approximate percentages to the total number and average attendance of all Voluntary Schools in England and Wales for the same period [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 178

LUNACY (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of General Rules for the Management of the Dundee District Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.. .. .. 178

TELEGRAPHS (FOREIGN WRITTEN PRESS TELEGRAMS).—Copy presented, of the Telegraph (Foreign Written Press Telegrams) Regulations, 1906, dated 16th August, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 178

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 30th June, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 178

CONVOCATIONS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK (LETTERS OF BUSINESS).—Address for "Return of the Letters of Business issued by the Crown to the Convocations of Canterbury and York, together with any Communication from the Government that may have accompanied them."—(*Mr. Paul*) .. .. 178

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1905–6.—Return ordered "Showing in respect of the financial year ended the 31st day of March, 1906, the distribution of the moneys paid into the Local Taxation Account in pursuance of the provisions of The Local Government Act, 1888, The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, The Finance Act, 1894, and other Acts (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 292, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Runciman*) 178

Oct. 24.] Page

*QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

OBSOLETE WARSHIPS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 180

CONVICTIONS OF CHINESE IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Fullerton (Cumberland, Egremont); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 183

IRISH SAVINGS BANK.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 183

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS REPORT.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. John Burns 184

MEAT INSPECTORS QUALIFICATION.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 184

ARMY MEAT SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. 185

FRANCHISE REFORM.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 185

*QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

MILITARY AND NAVAL POLICY.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 185

BERMUDA.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 186

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Sir John Scurrah Randles, for the County of Cumberland (Cockermouth Division) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 186

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.)* .. .. .. .. 186

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'elector,' to insert the words 'in respect of ownership.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorks., E.R., Holderness)* .. .. .. .. 187

Question proposed, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw."

Question put.

Oct. 24.] Page

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 60 ; Noes, 220. (Division List No. 323).

Original Question again proposed.

*The First Commissioner of Works* (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 191

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 65 ; Noes, 236. (Division List No. 324)

*Mr. Lane-Fox* (*Yorks., W.R., Barkston Ash*) .. .. .. .. 193

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'in any county or in any riding of a county.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 195
*Sir F. Banbury* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 196
*Mr. Stanley Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 196
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* (*Worcestershire, E.*) .. .. .. .. 196
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 197
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 197
*Mr. Paul* (*Northampton*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 198
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 198
*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 198

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 81 ; Noes, 301. (Division List No. 325.)

*Mr. Cave* (*Surrey, Kingston*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 201

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'other than a University constituency.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 204
*Mr. Butcher* (*Cambridge University*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 206
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer* (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) .. .. 208
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 210
*Mr. Paul* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 216
*Sir Henry Craik* (*Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities*) .. .. .. 219
*Mr. Maddison* (*Burnley*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 221
*Sir Philip Magnus* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 222
*Sir Wm. Anson* (*Oxford University*) .. .. .. .. .. 225
*Mr. Samuel Roberts* (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) .. .. .. .. .. 229

Oct. 24.] *Page*

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 92 ; Noes, 347. (Division List No. 326).

*Viscount Helmsley* (*Yorks., N.R., Thirsk*) .. .. .. .. .. 233

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'except in constituencies in which he has a direct interest either by ownership or occupation of business premises, or by residence for a period of at least ninety days in the previous year.' "—(*Viscount Helmsley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 236
*Mr. Courthope* (*Sussex, Rye*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 237
*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 238
*Col. Kenyon-Slaney* (*Shropshire, Newport*) .. .. .. .. 241
*Viscount Castlereagh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 242
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 242
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 243
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 246

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 83 ; Noes, 348. (Division List No. 327.)

*Sir E. Carson* (*Dublin University*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 251

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert 'before the first day of September in any year.' "—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Sir Chas. Dilke* (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) .. .. .. .. 253
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 254
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* (*Liverpool, West Derby*) .. .. .. .. 255
*Mr. Harmood-Banner* (*Liverpool, Everton*) .. .. .. .. 257
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 257
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 258
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 259
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 260
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 261
*Sir Wm. Bull* (*Hammersmith*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 261
*Mr. Rawlinson* (*Cambridge University*) .. .. .. .. .. 262

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Lane Fox* .. .. .. .. .. .. 262

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'such,' to insert the words 'at a general election.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted,"

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 263
*Mr. Akers-Douglas* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 263
*Mr. H. H. Marks* (*Kent, Thanet*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 264
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) .. .. .. 264
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 265
*Mr. Rawlinson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 265
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 265
*Mr. Laurence Hardy* (*Kent, Ashford*) .. .. .. .. .. 266
*Mr. Bonar Law* (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) .. .. .. .. .. 266
*Mr. Ashley* (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) .. .. .. .. .. 267
*Mr. Cawley* (*Lancashire, Prestwich*) .. .. .. .. .. 267
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 268

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 303. (Division List, No. 328.)

*Mr. Harmood-Banner* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 273

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'or ask for a ballot or voting paper for the purpose of so voting.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 275
*Mr. Bridgeman* (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) .. .. .. .. .. 276
*Sir William Bull* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 276
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 277
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 278
*Sir Charles Dilke* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 279
*Sir William Anson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 279
*Mr. Claude Hay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 280
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 280
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 281
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 282

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 340; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 329.)

*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 287

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 291
*Mr. Rawlinson.* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 291

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Whereupon MR. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF LORDS, THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1906.

VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH.—Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Tuesday last, that the right of the Viscount Molesworth to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such Report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

The Viscount Bridport sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

The Earl Ashburnham took the Oath .. .. .. .. .. 293

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; of inhabitants, ratepayers, parents, or teachers in the following districts or parishes; Wansford; St. Dunstans; Shalstone; Skipwith; Stoke St. Milburgh; Willian; Thorner and Scarcroft; Clevedon; Llanyre and Llanfihangel; Pontefract (Rural Deanery); Uplowman; Nanmtel; West Camel; Wardington; Blockley; Smeeth; Hurst; Bonnington; Willesborough; Silian; Newton Linford; Kirk Ella, West Ella; Willerby; Colwinstone; Pewsey; Nailsea; Menheiniot; Hazelwood; Iffley; Diocese of Salisbury (Board of Finance); Pontefract; Sibbertoft; Aston Botterell; Kingsworth; Kingsworth; Gildersome; Gildersome; Denstone; Denstone; Catworth; Long Marston; Epperstone; Chapel Allerton; Barnet; Abbess Roding; Milton; Redbank; Whatley; Yerbeston and Loveston; Bardsey; Old Romney and Midley; Detling; Wapling and Codrington (2); Lower Halston; Sapiston; Sapiston; Mattersey; Headon-in-Upton, Horton, Llangoran; Penyclawdd; Ludgershall; Connah's Quay; Wood Green and Hornsey; Shepton Mallet; Bromfield; Hatherden; Stanton Lacy; Muswell Hill; Chorlesbury; St. Leonards; Ellesborough; Weston Turville; Wendover; Hawridge; Wandsworth Common; Frant; Loddington; Sutton-on-the-Hill; East Retford; Holbrook; Compton; Hawley; Nassington; Yarwell; Derby City; Stubton; Askham Bryan; Farnborough; Haggerston (St. Chad's); Swavesey; Farncombe; Blackburn (Christ Church); Addington; West Malling; West Malling; Charlyinch; Canterbury (Holy Cross and St. Peters); Burton Agnes; Burton Agnes; Bow-street; Lower Hardres; Hornsey (Holy Innocents); Shepton

*Oct.* 25.] Montague; Glasbury; Lower Crumpsall; Raglan; Netherfield; Great Waltham; Great Waltham; Tubney; Coniston Cold; Credenhill; Nunnington; Nunnington; Swainswick; Swainswick; Llantarnum; Shamley Green; Northborough; Holmwood; Taunton; Kirkstall; Ludgershall; Farnborough; Weston-super-Mare; Bowes; Offham; Britwell Prior; Chelsea (Christ Church); Syerston; East Stoke; Screveton; Marnham; Grassthorpe; Weston; Weston; Longford; Everton; Potternewton; Midsomer Norton; Midsomer Norton; Carlton le Moorland; Ruckinge; Kewstoke; Croft; Chester (Holy Trinity); Blackwell; Dinder; Hallaton; Leeds (Camp Road Church); Caunton; Beverley Minster; Godalming; Earls Court (St. Matthias); Earls Court (St. Matthias); Thorpe; Manston; Aston Abbots; Canterbury (St. Dunstans); Lathbury; Canterbury; (St. Mary, Bredin); Long Benton; Crofton; Astwood and Hardmead; Rockingham; Denver; Patrick Brompton; Alkborough; New Wortley; Benson; Easby; Bapchild; Rodmersham; Upper Armley; Llandog; Wakefield; Coatham; Darwen; Weston; Tunbridge Wells (St. Barnabas); Frome (Selwood Parish Church); Frome (Selwood); Diddlebury; West Kirby; Ince; Birstall; Byford and Mansel Gamage; Middlesbro; Frome; Highclere; Woodford Bridge; Leeds (All Souls); Little Oakley; Miserden; Fitz; Woodhouse; Tremadoc; Lympsham; Dorset; Cockfield; Bedford, St. Cuthbert's; Bedford, St. Peter; Bedford, St. Martin; Haslington; Orwell; Conington; Linton; Witchford; Cambridge, St. Andrew Great; Anington; Great Saxham; Wynnington; Alwalton; Aldham; Woburn; Great Cornard; Eaton Bray; Conington; East Hatley; Hartford; Hadleigh; Croydon cum Clapton; Haddenham; Keysoe; Shelton; Isleham; Bottisham Guilden Morden; Thurston; Newton; Weston Colville; Caxton; Horringer; Litlington; Eversholt; Bedford, St. Peter; Dunton; Great and Little Abbington; Little Ouse; Leighton Bromswold; Woodside; Tillbrook; Hulcote and Salford; Graveley; Swaffham Prior; Stanton; Cavendish; Bures; Milton Ernest; Sandy; Willingham; Fletton; Knotting; Hassett; Barton Mills; Bedford; St. Paul's; Kings Ripton; Woodstone; Horseheath; Wimpole; Sudbury, All Saints; Thorney; Impington; Leavenheath; Chettisham; Clifton; Brent Eleigh; Cambridge, St. Phillips; Wentworth; Hinxton; Great Staughton; Freckenham; Exning; Houghton; Whetstead; Waresley; Sauston; Abbotsley; Great Bradley; Stradishall; Histon; Icklingham; Henlow; Great Gidding; Longston; Euston; Hinxton; Little Stukeley; Water Newton; Luton, Christ Church; Woolpit; Gravenhurst; Witcham; Isleham; Whaddon; Elveden; Wicken; Brampton; Leverington; Willingham; Potton; Higham Green; Little Bradley; Gransden; Parson Drove; Great Shelford; Cambridge, St. Edwards; Cambridge, St. Peter's; Snailwell; Manea; West Wickham; Bradfield, St. Clair; Studham; Odell; Little Staughton; Cambridge, Holy Trinity; Little Waldingfield; Cranfield; Newton; Yelling; Elm; Chesterton; Eynesbury; Cockayne; Hatley; Hundon; Bury; Ramsey, St. Mary; Eggington; Slowlandtoft; Glatton; Stansfield; Ickworth; Bedford, St. John; Childesley; Haddon; Wiston; Nayland; Wixoe; Clapham; Swineshead; Yielden; Flitton; Cheveley; Caddington; Offord D'arcy; Tadlow; Stow Longa; Pampisford; Cambridge, Holy Sepulchre; Hargrave; Horningsey; Bromham; Offord Cluny; Hatley, St. George; Elsworth; Duxford; Great Fakenham; Worlington; Sapiston; Bassingbourne; Ixworth; Hemingford Abbots; Bourn; Holwell; Goldingham; Little Thulow; Papworth, St. Agnes; Cambridge, St. Matthew; Eaton Socon; Cambridge, St. Paul; Pondsbridge; Biddenham; Drinkstone; Ravensden; Silsoe; Benwick; Hemingford Grey; Cambridge, St. Giles and St. Peter; Biggleswade; St. Michael, Cambridge; Kimbolton; Cambridge, St. Phillips; Doddington; Shefford; Trumpington; Stapleford; Kennett; Stansfield; Hartest; Upper Stondon; Westoning;

Whittlesey ; Lakenheath ; Shillington ; Cambridge (All Saints) ; Ailesey ; Stow cum Quy ; Spaldwich ; Luton (St. Matthew) ; Great Garford ; Stetchworth ; Ridley cum Fenton ; Fordham ; Chesterton (St . Andrew) ; Great Catworth ; Mildenhall ; Eyeworth ; Ramsey ; Brinkley ; Renhold ; Great Saxham ; Risby ; Oakington ; Flitton ; Badwell Ash ; Walsham-le-Willows ; Abbington ; Dounham ; Fen Ditton ; Milchbourne ; Over ; Houghton Conquest ; Stotfold ; Hamerton ; Hatley (St. George) ; Clophill ; Abbots Ripton ; Lidlington ; Cople ; Gidding ; Millbrook ; Kennett ; Wooton ; Hardwicke ; Buckworth ; Mard (St. Winduda) ; Felsham ; Longstone ; Cambridge (St. Barnabas) ; Ickleton ; Leighton Buzzard ; Clare ; March ; Thorpe Morieux ; Bildeston ; Molesworth ; Lindsay ; Wisbech (St. Mary) ; Dalham ; Old Warden ; Bedford (St. Mary) ; Wilburton ; Little Shelford ; Diddington ; Hitcham ; Stilton ; Wilshamstead ; Riseley ; Cambridge (All Saints) ; Dunstable ; Luton (St. Mary) ; Castle Camps ; Boxford ; Hildersham ; Lode Hadleigh ; Wyton ; Bartlow ; Cambridge (St. Matthew ; Rural Deanery of St. Albans ; Quorn ; Thringstone ; Lyddington ; Caldecott ; Lydbury North ; Chillenden ; Great Casterton ; Willesborough ; Hurst ; Smeeth ; Newtown Lynford ; Archdeaconry of Ludlow. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table. 293

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against ; of trustees of Church of England schools in the Diocese of York. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 296

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION BILL, 1906).—Note explaining the Repeal Schedule .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 296

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Returns for the months of August and September, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 296

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (VENTILATION).—Illustrations of Methods of Dust Extraction in Factories and Workshops, compiled by Commander Sir H. S. Freer-Smith, R.N. (late His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 296

TRADE REPORTS : ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3724. Persia (Trade of Khorassan for 1905–1906.)

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. 297

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Orders made by the councils of the following county and city, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within their respective districts—

County of Glamorgan (within the Coedffranc Parish and Maestag Urban District respectively) ;

City of Cardiff—

(i.) Within the Cathay's, Park, Roath and Adamstown (part of) Wards of the city.

(ii.) Parts of the Central Ward of the city .. .. .. .. 297

*Oct.* 25.] *Page*

Penal Servitude Act, 1891.—Additional regulation made by the Lord-Lieutenant, under Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, for the taking of Finger Prints and Measuring and Photographing of Prisoners .. .. .. 297

Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898.—Order in Council altering the Scale set out in the Second Schedule of the Act for the purpose of the levying of the Light Dues in pursuance of the Act.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 297

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

*Lord Stanmore* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 297
*Viscount Goschen* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 301
*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 312
*Lord Eversley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 326
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 333
*Lord Grimthorpe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 336
*Lord Barnard* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 344
*Lord Belper* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 352
*The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 358
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 370
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 381

On Question, Motion to go into Committee agreed to.

House in Committee accordingly.

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Moved, That the House do resume.—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee on Monday next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Twelve o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 25th OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

*PETITIONS.*

Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Consolidation Bill.—Petition from Ayr, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 390

Labour Test Workers (Enfranchisement).—Petition from Carlisle, for legislation; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 390

*Oct.* 25.] *Page*

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Ealing, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 390

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

EAST INDIA (OFFICERS) (EXCHANGE COMPENSATION).—Return [presented 23rd October] to be printed. [No. 338] .. .. .. .. .. .. 390

MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.—Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council altering the Scale set out in the Second Schedule to the Act for the purpose of the levying of the Light Dues in pursuance of the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 390

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the months of August and September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 391

PENAL SERVITUDE ACT, 1891.—Copy presented, of Additional Regulation made by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland for the taking of Finger Prints and Measuring and Photographing of Prisoners [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 391

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (VENTILATION).—Copy presented, of Illustrations of Methods of Dust Extraction in Factories and Workshops, compiled by Commander Sir H. P. Freer-Smith, R.N. (late His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 391

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Council of the City of Cardiff, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Bootsellers' Shops within part of the Central Ward, within the Cathays, Park, Roath, and Adamstown (part of) Wards of the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. 391

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copies presented, of two Orders made by the Council of the County of Glamorgan, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the Coedffranc Parish and Maesteg Urban District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 391

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (INCLUDING TELEPHONES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd February; Mr. Sydney Buxton]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339] .. .. .. .. .. .. 391

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—Copy presented, of Note explaining the Repeal Schedule [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 391

PRIVATE BILLS (LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL).—Return ordered, "of Expenses incurred by the London County Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, and, as far as possible, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [H.L.]. No. 214, of Session 1903)." (*Mr. Thornton.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 392

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 392

*Oct.* 25.] *Page*

Regent's Park Fence.—Question, Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 392

Recruitment of Native Labour in South-East Africa.—Question, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. 393

Orange River Colony Constitution.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 393

Alleged Immorality of Chinese Coolies in South Africa.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 393

Glastonbury Abbey.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 394

Rosyth.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. E. Robertson .. 394

Cost of Insurance against Workmen's Compensation.—Question, Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone .. .. .. 394

Dock Regulations.—Question, Mr. Wilkie (Dundee); Answer, Mr. Secretary Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 395

Lyningham with Filgrave School.—Question, Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. .. .. 396

Cost of Railway Commissioners' Appeals.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 397

Railway and Shipping Transit Rates.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 398

Kent Licensing Compensation Case.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hants, New Forest); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. .. .. .. .. 398

Officers for the Indian Army.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Secretary Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 399

Irish Estates Commissioners' Report.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 399

Loans on Irish Land Purchase Agreements.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 400

Purchase Agreement Delays.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 400

Cavalry Regiment in Scotland.—Question, Major Anstruther Gray; Answer, Mr. Secretary Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 401

*QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Naval Officers' Debts.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 401

H.M.S. Montagu.—Question, Mr. S. Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, (Worcester); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson; The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 402

*Oct.* 25.]

*Page*

SOUTH AFRICAN STORES COMMISSION REPORT—DISMISSAL OF SOLDIERS—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burgh); and Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) .. .. .. 403

DEFENCE OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 406

PIMLICO ARMY CLOTHING FACTORY.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland) Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 406

COWLEY BARRACKS ENGINEMAN.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 407

SOUTHERN NIGERIA—HAUSA GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 407

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 408

ORANGE RIVER COLONY JURIES.—Question, Mr. Molteno (Dumfriesshire); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 409

BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W. R., Ripon); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 409

THE ADDRESS TO THE LATE RUSSIAN DUMA.—Questions, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) and Mr. Byles (Salford N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 410

THE EIGHTY CLUB AND AUSTRO-HUNGARY.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 411

RUSSIA AND THE ALAND ISLAND.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 411

CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 411

INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. .. .. 412

ESTATE DUTY OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. 412

MOTOR BUSES AND SIDE SLIPS.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. 413

THE SOAP COMBINE.—Questions, Mr. H. H. Marks and Mr. Claude Hay; Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 413

THE GERMAN GIPSY INVASION.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Meysey-Thompson (Staffordshire, Handsworth), Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) and Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. 414

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.—Question, Mr. Rendall (Gloucestershire, Thornbury); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. 416

*Oct.* 25.] *Page*

Staple Hill Colliery.—Question, Mr. Rendall; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 416

Berne Convention and Yellow Phosphorus.—Questions, Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) and Mr. J. Ward; Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. 417

Motor Car Traffic.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 417

Traction Engine Traffic.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 418

Royal Commission on Vivisection.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.) and Mr. Lupton; Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 419

The Case of Miss Pankhurst.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 419

Alleged Ill-Treatment of Ships' Apprentices.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 420

Berlin Conference on Wireless Telegraphy.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 421

Betting in Post Offices.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 421

Stoke on Trent Post Office.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 421

Putrid Meat at Smithfield.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks; Answer, The President of The Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. 422

Motor Car Speeds.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 422

Motor Fatalities.—Question, Mr. Molteno; Answer, Mr. J. Burns .. .. 423

The West Riding Appeal.—Questions, Mr. Paul (Northampton) and Mr. Clough (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton); Answers, The President of The Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, W.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 423

Rifle Shooting in Schools.—Questions, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Keir Hardie, and Mr. Rees (Montgomery); Answers, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 425

The Mall Improvement.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. .. 427

Regent's Park Fence.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 427

The Stibbert Request.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Harcourt 428

Scottish Agricultural Holdings.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 429

*Oct.* 25.] *Page*

FAILURE OF THE IRISH POTATO CROP.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 429

APPOINTMENTS OF COUNTY MAGISTRATES.—Questions, Mr. Henry (Shropshire, Wellington), Mr. Brace (Glamorganshire, S.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 430

**The Public Trustee Bill.**—Question Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 431

THE ALTERATIONS IN THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. 431

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Clause."

*Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 432
*Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 433
*Sir Francis Lowe (Birmingham, Edgbaston)* .. .. .. .. 434
*Sir F. Banbury (City of London)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 435
*Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 436
*Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby)* .. .. .. .. 436

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes, 307; Noes, 89. (Division List, No. 330.)

*Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 441

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'seven,' to insert the words 'or such later date as His Majesty in Council may determine.'"—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

*The First Commissioner of Works* (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 443
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 444
*Mr. Staveley Hill* (*Staffordshire, Kingswinford*) .. .. .. .. 444
*Captain Craig* (*Down, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 445
*Mr. Harmood-Banner* (*Liverpool, Everton*) .. .. .. .. 446

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 89 ; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 331.)

*Mr. Cave* (*Surrey, Kingston*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 449

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words ' except in that ' and insert the words ' in more than.' "—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' except ' stand part of the Clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 452
*Sir Charles Dilke* (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) .. .. .. 453
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 455
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 456
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer* (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) .. .. 458
*Sir Charles Dilke* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 459
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* (*Worcestershire, E.*) .. .. .. .. 460
*Mr. Wallace* (*Perth*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 461
*Mr. Lambton* (*Durham, S.E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 463
*Mr. Horridge* (*Manchester, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 463
*Mr. J. Ward* (*Stoke-on-Trent*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 465
*Mr. Nield* (*Middlesex, Ealing*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 465
*Mr. Rawlinson* (*Cambridge University*) .. .. .. .. .. 466
*Mr. Lyttelton* (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) .. .. .. .. 467
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 468
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 469

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 343 ; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 332.)

*Sir Charles Dilke* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 475

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 8, after the word ' except ' to insert the words ' in a constituency in which he resides, or, in the event of his not residing in any of the constituencies in which he is registered, or of his residing in more than one constituency, then except.' "—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 478
*Sir Charles Dilke* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 479
*Sir Brampton Gurdon* (*Norfolk, N.*) .. .. .. .. .. 480

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. 480
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. 482
*Mr. Harmood Banner* .. 483
*Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, W.)* .. 483

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress."—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

*The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. John Ellis, Notts., Rushcliffe)* .. 484
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. 484
*Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham)* .. 484
*Mr. Harcourt* .. 485
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. 485
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. 486
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. 486
*Sir William Bull (Hammersmith)* .. 486
*Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry)* .. 488

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

*Mr. Harmood-Banner* .. 488

Question put and negatived.

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. 488

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 11, after the word 'Act,' to insert the words 'or in which he is registered as a voter in respect of his place of abode.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. 489
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. 490
*Mr. Bonar Law (Camberwell, Dulwich)* .. 491
*Mr. Robert Pearce (Staffordshire, Leek)* .. 492
*Captain Craig (Down, E.)* .. 493
*Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton)* .. 493
*Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye)* .. 495
*Sir George Doughty (Great Grimsby)* .. 495
*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. 496
*Mr. Harcourt* .. 498

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 81 ; Noes, 326. (Division List No. 333.)

*Mr. Rawlinson* .. 502

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'corruptly and.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 503
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 504
*The Solicitor-General* (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) .. .. .. 505
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 505
*Mr. Paul* (*Northampton*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 507

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 334.)

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute before Eleven o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

### *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

**Clydebank and District Water and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill,** "to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Clydebank and District Water and Burgh Extension," presented by Mr. Sinclair ; read the first time ; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th November, and to be printed. [Bill 344] .. .. .. 513

### *PETITIONS.*

BETTING AND GAMBLING.—Petition from Stepney, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 513

LABOUR TEST WORKERS (ENFRANCHISEMENT).—Petition from Westmoreland, for legislation ; to lie up on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 513

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Londonderry, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops (by Act) ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 513

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 TO 1903.—Copy presented, of Order dated 30th July, 1906, entitled the Liverpool (Birkenhead) Foreign Animals Wharf Order of 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 513

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 505 (St. Lucia, Annual Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 513

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3724 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 514

### *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

IRISH VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.—Question, Dr. Ambrose; Answer, Mr. Bryce 514

ADMINISTRATION OF CHINESE CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. Londsdale (Armagh, Mid); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. 516

BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL AND THE FRANCHISE.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 517

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS BILL—PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF ADVICE.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. 517

CLOSING OF IRISH COASTGUARD STATIONS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 517

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DISTURBANCE.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 518

THE BANK OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 519

IRISH CONTRACTORS AND ARMY TENDERS—DUBLIN DEPÔT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Buchanan .. .. .. 519

LEAVE IN ATHENRY POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. 520

### *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

SELBY ABBEY.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 520

ADJOURNMENT.—Resolved, "That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. .. .. .. .. 521

*Oct.* 26.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'knowingly,' to insert the words 'and with the intention of voting in more than one constituency.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*The First Commissioner of Works* (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 522
*Viscount Castlereagh* (*Maidstone*) .. .. .. .. .. 523
*Sir Frederick Banbury* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 524
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 525

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"After the word 'knowingly' to insert the words 'with the intention of evading the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Bridgeman* (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) .. .. .. .. .. 525

Question put and agreed to.

*Mr. Lane-Fox* (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*) .. .. .. 526

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the word 'personation' and insert the words 'an offence.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'personation' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 526
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* (*Worcestershire, E.*) .. .. .. .. 527
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer* (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) .. .. 528
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 528
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 530
*Mr. Cawley* (*Lancashire Prestwich*) .. .. .. .. .. 530
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 530
*The Attorney-General* (*Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.*) .. .. .. 531
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 533
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 536
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) .. .. .. 536
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 536
*Mr. Stuart Wortley* (*Sheffield, Hallam*) .. .. .. .. .. 537
*Mr. Shackleton* (*Lancashire, Clithcroe*) .. .. .. .. .. 537
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 538
*Mr. Lupton* (*Lincolnshire Sleaford*) .. .. .. .. .. 538
*Mr. Mildmay* (*Devonshire, Totnes*) .. .. .. .. .. 538
*Mr. William Rutherford* (*Liverpool, West Derby*) .. .. .. 539
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 541

The Chancellor of the Exchequer rose in his place and claimed to move "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 284 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 335.)

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 551

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out from the word 'personation' to the end of sub-section (1)."—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 552
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 552
*Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 553
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 554
*Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University)* .. .. .. .. .. 554
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 554

Question put.

The Committee divided :— Ayes, 284 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 337.)

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 557

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at the end, to insert the words, 'but so that Section 6, Sub-sections 3 and 4 shall not apply to a person convicted of the offence of asking for a voting paper if he has not already voted.' "—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 559
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 559
*Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 560
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 560
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 560
*Mr. Lupton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 560
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 561
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 561
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 561
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 562

Question put.

The Committee divided—Ayes, 77 ; Noes, 284. (Division List No. 338).

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 565

Oct. 26.] Page

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at end, to insert the words, 'Provided that when on application made it is shown to the High Court that any person has acted in contravention of this section, without any intention of voting in more than one constituency, the court shall have the same power to grant relief as is contained in Section 23 of the said Act."

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 567
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 567

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'voting in more than one constituency,' and insert the words 'evading the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 567

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 568
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 569
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 570

Question put and agreed to.

*Mr. Rawlinson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 570

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at the end, to insert the words: 'No offence under this section shall give ground for a scrutiny or proceedings under an election petition.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 571
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 572
*Mr. Rawlinson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 573
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 574

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 574

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 16, to leave out sub-section (2) of Clause 1."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'must,' in line 17, stand part of the clause.'"

| | |
|---|---|
| *Mr. Harcourt* | 575 |
| *Mr. Harmood-Banner* (*Liverpool, Everton*) | 575 |
| *Mr. Courthope* (*Sussex, Rye*) | 578 |
| *Sir E. Carson* | 580 |
| *Mr. Harcourt* | 580 |

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 256; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 339.)

And, it being after Five of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 4th August last.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

---

## HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against—Of inhabitants of Great Washbourne; and Olderton; of inhabitants of the parishes of Middleton Stoney; Houden; Perrott; Richmond (Yorks); Little Hereford; Stanton-Fitzwarren; Pawlett; Syston St. Thomas's (Lancaster); Kelton; Saxby-cum-Stapleford; Newbold-Verdon; Hugglescote; Fringford; Everdon; Barrowden; Daventry; Hinckley; Maxey; Muston; and Potterspury; of parents and guardians of children attending church schools at Blymhill; Stanton-Fitzwarren; Newbold-Verdon; Chapel Heaton; of trustees and managers of Church of England schools in the diocese of Chester; members of the Vale of Avon (Batheaston district) of the Primrose League; and teachers in the rual deaneries of Framland; and Rutland.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 585

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition for amendment of; of the Ruri-decanal Conference of the rural deanery of Sandwich; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 585

*Oct.* 29.]

Page

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

COLONIES: ANNUAL.—No. 505. St. Lucia (Report for 1905) .. .. .. 585

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3725. China .. .. .. .. 585

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1869.—Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland, for the year 1905.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. 585

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Closing order made by the council of the County Borough of Londonderry; the Urban District Council of Wexford .. 586

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1904 TO 1903.—Order, dated 30th July, 1906, entitled the Liverpool (Birkenhead) Foreign Animals Wharf Order of 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table 586

NORTH SEA FISHERIES.—Order of the 25th of June last, for Papers relating to the proceedings of the International Council for the Investigation of the North Sea, discharged .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 586

THE COST OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 586
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 587

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—Order of the Day read for the House to be again put into Committee on this Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause I:—

*Viscount Llandaff* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 588

Amendment moved—

"To postpone Clause 1 until after Clause 12."—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

*The Lord Bishop of London* .. .. .. .. .. .. 591
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 592
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 593
*The Duke of Norfolk* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 595
*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 595

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 596

*Oct.* 29.] Page

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'eight,' and insert the word 'nine.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 596
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 597
*Lord Burghclere* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 598
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. 598
*The Marquess of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 599
*Lord Ampthill* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 599
*Lord Grimthorpe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 599
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 600
*The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 600
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 602
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 602
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 603
*The Lord Privy Seal* (*The Marquess of Ripon*) .. .. .. .. 604
*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 605

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord Emly* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 605

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight,' to insert the words 'in any school area in which there is but one public elementary school.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 608

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord Heneage* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 609

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'and unless some portion of the school hours of every day is set apart for the purposes of religious instruction.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 615
*The Lord Bishop of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 618
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 618
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 623
*The Lord Chancellor* (*Lord Loreburn*) .. .. .. .. .. 627
*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 628
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 629
*The Lord Bishop of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 629
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 635
*Lord Ampthill* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 642
*The Marquess of Northampton* .. .. .. .. .. .. 644
*The Lord Bishop of Southwark* .. .. .. .. .. .. 647
*Earl Russell* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 650
*The Marquess of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 654

*Lord Burghclere* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 659
*The Marquess of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 660
*The Earl of Halsbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 663

On Question, "That these words be there added," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 256 ; Not-contents, 56.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee to-morrow.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 29TH OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

### *PETITION.*

OUGHTON, MATILDA.—Petition of Matilda Oughton, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 667

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1905 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 668

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3725 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table .. 668

AUDIT OF COUNTY ACCOUNTS (IRELAND) (FEES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th July ; *Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh*] ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 668

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Urban District Council of Wexford, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 668

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.—Return ordered, "showing the total Expenditure authorised for Works under the following Acts :—Telegraphs, Naval Works, Military Works, Land Registry, Public Building Expenses, Public Offices (Dublin) Site, Cunard Agreements ; the sums expended to the 21st day of March 1906 ; the sums to be expended in current fiscal year ; and the sums remaining to be expended after the 31st day of March, 1907."—(*Mr. Rose*) 669

### *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

OVERCROWDING OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS AT HALIFAX POST OFFICE —Question, Mr. Parker (Halifax) ; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. 669

TELEGRAPHISTS AND SORTING DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Parker ; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 669

*Oct.* 29.]

Page

ESTATE DUTY.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 670

PAY OF BOMBAY POLICE.—Question, Mr. Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 670

SARA BRIDGE PROJECT.—Question, Sir Seymour King; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 670

PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS IN THE INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Seymour King; Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. 671

DISPOSAL OF SITES AND BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH THE DEFENCE OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. Gibbs (Bristol); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. 671

MOTOR TRAFFIC—PETROL SMOKE AND VEGETATION.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. 672

THE "MACDONNELL" LETTERS.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 672

RATES FOR PIECEWORK AT PIMLICO CLOTHING FACTORY.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. 673

COOLIE LABOUR IN BRITISH COLONIES.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 673

LORD SELBORNE AND THE SWAZIS.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 673

TRANSVAAL SELF-GOVERNMENT—ISSUE OF LETTERS PATENT.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 674

CONTRACT LABOUR IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORY.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. 675

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS—IRISH WORK AT SOUTHAMPTON.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. .. .. 675

RETIRING GRATUITY TO INSPECTOR OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 676

ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF THE BUILDING ACT IN CAMBERWELL NEW ROAD.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. 676

SAXMUNDHAM WATER SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Harold Pearson (Suffolk, Eye); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 677

UNEMPLOYED DISTRESS COMMITTEES AND GOVERNMENT GRANTS.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. 677

INQUEST ON C. H. BUCK—REMOVAL OF BODY TO BRISTOL.—Question, Mr. W. Hope (Somersetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. 678

CONVICTION AND EXPULSION OF ALIENS.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. 678

Oct. 29.] Page

Regent's Park Fencing.—Question, Mr. Samuel Scott (Marylebone, N.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 681

Rifle Shooting in Schools.—Questions, Mr. Maddison (Burnley), Mr. H. .J Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. 681

The Madras Estates Land Bill.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. 681

Trade Routes Between India and Tibet.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 682

Evicted Tenants in Queen's County.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 682

Football and Hurling Grounds in Phœnix Park.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 683

Marine Works at Innishlyre, County Mayo.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 683

*QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

Wages in the Royal Dockyards.—Question, Sir J. Baker (Portsmouth); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 684

Plymouth Fishermen's Grievance.—Question, Mr. Mildmay (Devonshire, Totnes); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. 684

Duke of York's School.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane) .. .. 685

The New Bayonet.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 685

Mauritius.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. 685

Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield.—Question, Mr. Branch (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 685

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich—Discharges of Workmen.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. 685

India Frontier Defence—The Moplahs.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley) .. .. 686

Petitions from Indian Natives.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 687

Siem of the Cherra State.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 688

Opium Traffic with China.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 688

The Partition of Bengal.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answers, Mr. Morley and Earl Percy (Kensington, S.) .. .. .. 687

*Oct.* 29.]

Page

TRANSVAAL ELECTIONS.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.E.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 690

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Questions, Sir John Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answers, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. 690

TRANSVAAL DUTIES ON SPIRITS.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 691

MR. BOWMAN'S EXPULSION FROM SPAIN.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 691

GREAT BRITAIN, RUSSIA AND PERSIA.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Mr. Runciman .. .. .. .. .. .. 693

NICKEL COINAGE.—Question, Mr. W. R. Rea (Scarborough); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. .. .. 693

INLAND REVENUE.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Asquith 693

PRISON OFFICERS' PAY.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 694

DURHAM PRISON INDUSTRIES.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 694

IMPERIAL STOCK AND SHARE EXCHANGE.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 695

THE EXPULSION OF ALIENS.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 695

MANNERS COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 696

COAL DUST EXPLOSIONS IN MINES.—Questions, Mr. Markham, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck), Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 695

OUTWORKERS AND PARTICULARS OF PRICES.—Question, Mr. J. W. Taylor (Durham, Chester-le-Street); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. 697

COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS.—Question, Mr. Godfrey Baring (Isle of Wight); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 698

LORD DE RAMSAY AND THE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS.—Question, Mr. Boulton (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey), Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland), Mr. Nicholls (Northamptonshire, N.) and Mr. Winfrey (Norfolk, S.W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns.. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 699

REGISTER OF PAUPERS.—Question, Mr. W. Hope; Answer, Mr. John Burns .. 700

THE WEST RIDING JUDGMENT.—Question, Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. 700

*Oct.* 29.] Page

Poplar Schools at Hutton.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 701

Islington Borough Treasurer.—Question, Mr. Radford (Islington, E.); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 702

Trade Combination.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Borough) 702

Salisbury Railway Disaster.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 703

London and North Western Railway Pension Fund.—Question, Mr. Wardle; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. 703

Compulsory School Attendance.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 703

School Attendance in Rural Districts.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 704

Rifle Shooting by School Boys.—Questions, Mr. Menzies (Lanarkshire, S.), Mr. Snowden (Blackburn), Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent), Mr. Paul (Northampton), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Rowlands (Kent, Dartford), Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell), Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet), Sir Howard Vincent; Answers, Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston), Mr. Birrell .. 704

The Hobhouse Inquiry.—Question, Sir George Newnes (Swansea Town); Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 707

Margate Postal Arrangements.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 708

Postal Facilities in the West Indies.—Question, Mr. Mitchell Thompson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. 708

Burwell Estate, Cambridgeshire.—Questions, Mr. H. H. Marks, Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham), and Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 708

The Official Debates.—Question, Mr. Hazleton (Galway, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) .. 710

King's Park, Stirling.—Question, Mr. Morton Sutherland; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 711

The National Gallery.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, Mr. McKenna 711

Rex *v.* Blackler.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 711

Prosecutions under the Corrupt Practices Act.—Questions, Lord R. Cecil and Mr. Claude Hay; Answers, Sir John Walton .. .. .. 712

An Alleged Political Eviction.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Sir John Walton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 714

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS (SCOTLAND) ACT.—Question. Mr. Menzies; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair) .. .. .. .. 71

IRISH TENANTS EVICTED.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce) .. .. .. .. .. 715

TELEGRAPH OFFICES AT IRISH TIDAL PORTS.—Question, Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 717

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 718

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Question, Major Seeley (Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. 719

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. JOHN REDMOND, Member for Waterford, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the failure of the Irish Government and the Estate Commissioners to carry out the intentions and policy of Parliament by the restoration of Irish evicted tenants to their homes, as disclosed in the Report of the Estate Commissioners and in the statement of the Chief Secretary;" and, the pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight this evening .. 719

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

*Viscount Castlereagh* (*Maidstone*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 720

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the word 'send' and to insert the words 'cause to be delivered in a form to be prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

*The First Commissioner of Works* (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 720
*Mr. Walter Long* (*Dublin, S.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 721
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 721

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Captain Craig* (*Down, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 722

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'send,' to insert the words 'cause to be sent.'"—(*Captain Craig.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 724
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 725
*Sir Frederick Banbury (City of London)* .. .. .. .. 725
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 726

Question put, and agreed to.

*Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 726

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 17, after the word ' notice,' to insert the words ' in a statutory form to be provided by the overseers.' "—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 727
*Mr. Walter Long* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 727

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. Fell* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 727

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 17, after the word ' selection,' to insert the words ' and a list of the other constituencies in which he is registered and a form of renunciation of his right to vote in such other constituencies.' "—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 729
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 730
*Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall)* .. .. .. .. .. 731
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.)* .. .. .. .. 731
*Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby)* .. .. .. 732

Question put, and negatived.

*Sir William Bull (Hammersmith)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 733

Amendment proposed—

" In page 1, line 17, after the word ' selection,' to insert the words, ' by post in the form set out in the Schedule hereto.' "—(*Sir William Bull.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 734
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 735

Question put, and negatived.

*Captain Craig* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 735

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 17 and 18, to leave out the words 'signed by him.'"—(*Captain Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

*The Under-Secretary of State for India* (*Mr. John Ellis, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 735
*Sir Charles Dilke* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 735
*Mr. Lyttleton* (*St. Georges, Hanover Square*) .. .. .. .. 736
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer* (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) .. .. 737
*Mr. Mooney* (*Newry*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 738
*Captain Craig* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 738
*Mr. Samuel Roberts* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 738
*Viscount Turnour* (*Sussex, Horsham*) .. .. .. .. .. 740

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 315; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 340).

*Sir Philip Magnus* (*London University*) .. .. .. .. .. 743

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'clerk,' to insert the words 'in the case of a University constituency the clerk of Convocation or other persons who are responsible.'"—(*Sir Philip Magnus.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 745

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 745
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 746

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the second word 'clerk,' to insert the words 'or other officer.'"—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 747
*Sir Francis Lowe* (*Birmingham, Edgbaston*) .. .. .. .. 748

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Oct.* 29.] *Pag*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word 'constituency' to insert the words 'on or.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. Arthur Henderson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 750

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out 'first,' and insert 'fifth.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'first' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 750
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 750
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 750
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 751

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

*Mr. Forster* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 751

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the word 'September,' and to insert the word 'August.'"—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'September' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 752
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 752
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 752
*Mr. H. H. Marks* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 752

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 22, to leave out the words 'to begin.'"—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'to begin' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 753

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness)* .. .. .. 755

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after 'clerk' to insert the words 'shall send the name and address of the voter to the revising barrister, who.'"—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 754
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 754
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 754
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 755
*Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans)* .. .. .. .. .. 755
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 756
*Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)* .. .. .. .. .. 756
*Mr. Staveley Hill (Staffordshire, Kingswinford)* .. .. .. .. 756
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 757
*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 757
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 758
*Mr. Stanley Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 759

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 84 ; Noes, 333. (Division List No. 341.)

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 763

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words, 'send an acknowledgment of the receipt of the said notice and.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 764

Question put, and agreed to.

*Sir William Bull* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 764

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, to leave out the word 'register' and insert the words, 'list of voters.'"—(*Sir William Bull.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'register' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 765
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 765

Question put, and agreed to.

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 765

*Oct.* 29.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out from the word 'register' to the word 'and' in line 25, and insert the words 'with the word "selected" opposite such name.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 766

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 314 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 342.)

*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson* (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) .. .. .. .. 769

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end to add the words, '3. If a person having selected a voting constituency should become disqualified or disabled from voting in that constituency in any year, he may, at any time during such year, select for the purposes of this Act another voting constituency from amongst those constituencies for which he is registered, and send a notice of his selection signed by him to the clerk of the county council or town clerk in manner aforesaid, and such selection shall forthwith have effect accordingly.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 770

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 771
*Mr. Forster* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 771

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words 'and the clerk shall retain and preserve all notices so sent.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 773

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words 'provided that when on application made it is shown to the High Court that a person was prevented by illness or by absence beyond the seas from sending such notice the Court may, if it thinks right, give liberty to serve such notice together with a copy of the Order giving such liberty, and thereupon the clerk shall mark the name in manner prescribed by the Order in Council.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 773

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport)* .. .. .. .. 774

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'Provided always that where a voter becomes enrolled as a Parliamentary elector in more than one constituency by reason of a claim having been proved before a revising barrister, he shall be at liberty to make a selection within seven days after such proof has been made.' "—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 775
*Mr. Lyttelton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 775
*Mr. Bonar Law (Camberwell, Dulwich)* .. .. .. .. .. 775
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 775

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Samuel Roberts* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 776

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, at the end, insert, 'In the event of the person's name being removed from the register, the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.' "—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 776
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 776
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 777

And it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, and leave having been given to move the Adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 10, Further Proceeding stood postponed without Question put.

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

*Mr. John Redmond (Waterford)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 778
*Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 788

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn." —(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

*Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 791
*Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 792
*Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe)* .. .. .. .. .. 793
*Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory)* .. .. .. .. .. 794

Oct. 29.]

Page
*Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 796
*Mr. Byles (Salford, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 797
*Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. 798
*The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.)* .. .. 800
*Mr. Walter Long (Dublin Co., S.)* .. .. .. .. .. 809
*Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.)* .. .. .. .. .. 811

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Motion for adjournment lapsed without Question put.

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

In the Committee.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at the end, to insert the words, 'in the event of the person's name being removed from the register the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.' "—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question again proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

And, it being Eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow .. .. .. 81

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at four minutes after Eleven o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).—Petitions against, of inhabitants of the parishes of Tytherington ; Dingley ; Kingsdown ; Heselton ; East Carlton ; Ashley ; South Luffenham ; Worksop ; Heywood ; St. Mary Church ; Turton ; Ilsham (Torquay) ; Brighton ; Llansantfraed ; Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke ; Kentish Town ; Combe Martin ; Nursling ; Failsworth ; Stanford and Postling ; Churchdown ; Twickenham ; Mark Cross ; Bockleton ; Stratford (St. Columba) ; Leyton District ; Loxhore ; Portbury ; Little Gaddesden ; Ilsham (Torquay) ; Llanfacreth ; Thurnham ; Walthamstow (St. Barnabas) ; Rainham ; Luton, near Chatham ; Lower Darwen ; Haverstock Hill (Saint Andrew's) ; Whitechapel District (near Preston) ; Heyshott ;

Oct. 30.] Page

Glazebury; Dore and Totley; Little Baddow; Maldon (All Saints); Barford; Westgate; Otterham; Kirby Bedon; Maney, Sutton Coldfield; Sutton Coldfield Burnsall; Little Dewchurch; Bromfield; Staverton; Camden Square, St Paul's (2); Bolas Magna; Durham, St. Oswald's; Barnes, Holy Trinity, Castlenau; Toynton Spilsby; Derby; Wolverhampton, Saint Matthew's; Hognaston; Newport; W. Lulworth; Otford; Birmingham, St. Cuthbert's; Gravesend and Wilton; Llanybyther; Oxentown; Kirkmanshulme, St. Cyprian's; Barmston; Kentish Town (Saint Benet and All Saints); Ewelme; Burmarsh; Billesden; Martindale; Hawkesbury; Muswell Hill; Heybridge; Pattishall; Lew; Wickham Market; Llanevenog; Halam; Ore, near Hastings; Kingston-by-the-Sea; Bletchley; Latimer Road (Holy Trinity); Forest Gate (All Saints); Winchester (St. John's Hospital); Oldcastle; Milnthorpe; Howe Bridge; Framfield; Uffington; Tenbury; Romiley; Alveston; Leeds (St. Saviour's); Dunsforth; Lilleshall; Blackburn St. John's; Chittlehampton, Llanbavarn and Cilcennin; Little Munden; West Stockwith; Dorney, near Windsor; Southport, St. Luke's; Shelfanger; Locking; Fritton, Great Yarmouth; Thatcham; Hungarton; Twyford; Thorpe Satchville; Vaynor; Otterbourne; Southampton (St. Barnabas); Lever Bridge; Beeston Hill (Leeds); Ightham; Norwich (St. Helen's); Westfields; West Ashley; Dowlish Wake; Peckleton; Forden; Covenham; Westminster (St. Matthew's); Hatfield (St. Mary); Pendoylan; Dunton; Whit Lane; Oaksey; East Ardsley; Baxterley; Merevale; Manchester (St. Stephen's); Colverley; Barrowford; Kingston-upon-Hull; Cramlington; Bettws Bledws; Whittington and Newton-with-Dachnen; Goodleigh; Clewer St. Stephen, Windsor; Upton Park; Askham Richard; Baslow; Hampstead; Rawmarsh; Doncaster; Normanton; Podymore; Blackheath; Aston-Somerville; Kirton-in-Lindsay; Offchurch, Ryde; Hulland; South Stoke; Hoddlesden; Sellack; Levenshulme; Pudsey; Athelhampton; of parents of children attending schools in the parishes of Heselton; Stoke Albany; Wilbartson; South Luffenham; and in the Deanery of Weldon; of trustees of Church of England schools in the diocese of Salisbury; of managers of Marple National School.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. 813

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).—Petition for amendment of: (1) of inhabitants of the parish of Wigginton; (2) of the Rev. J. T. Kingsmill, rector of Hockering. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. 814

*RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

COLONIES—ANNUAL.—No. 506. Mauritius (Report for 1905) .. .. .. 814

TREATY SERIES, No. 15 (1906).—Convention between the United Kingdom and United States of America respecting the boundary between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska; signed at Washington, 21st April, 1906 (ratifications exchanged at Washington, 16th August, 1906).

Presented, by Command, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. 814

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Two Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906—amending the Orders in Council of 9th May, 1891, and 23rd November, 1893, in regard to the grant of colonial certificates of competency; relating to seamen's lodging-houses in the city and county of Kingston-upon-Hull .. .. .. .. 815

*Oct.* 30.] Page

NAVAL SAVINGS BANK ACT, 1866.—Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, approving new regulations for the administration of naval savings banks .. 815

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881 (NATAL).—Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, directing that an Act passed by the Legislature of Natal (No. 13 of 1906) shall be recognised and given effect to throughout His Majesty's Dominions and on the High Seas as if it were part of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 815

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Four Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, entitled : The East Africa Order in Council, 1906 ; The Ashanti Order in Council, 1906 ; The Northern Territories Order in Council, 1906 ; The Gold Coast Boundaries Order in Council, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. 815

CRIMINAL LUNATICS ACT, 1860 (PARKHURST CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUM).—Rules made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 5 of the Act, for Parkhurst Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 815

**Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.**—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3a To-morrow .. .. 815

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—Order of the Day read for the House being again in Committee on this Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Moved, " That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 816
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 819
*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 820
*Lord Overtoun* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 821
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 821
*The Lord Privy Seal* (*The Marquess of Ripon*) .. .. .. .. 822
*The Duke of Norfolk* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 824
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 826

On Question, Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 826

Amendment moved—

" In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out the words ' for the purpose of continuing,' and insert the words ' shall, if required by the owners, continue.' "—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Page
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 827
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 829
*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 829
*The Earl of Jersey* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 831
*Lord Belper* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 832
*The Lord Bishop of Hereford* .. .. .. .. .. .. 833
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 834
*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 836
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 837
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 841
*Lord Harris* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 843
*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 843
*Lord Grimthorpe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 844
*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 845
*The Marquess of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 846
*Viscount Ridley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 847
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 848
*Lord Balfour of Burleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 850
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 851

Moved, "That the House be now resumed."—(*Lord Harris* )

On Question.

Their Lordships divided :—Contents, 215 ; Not-contents, 58.

House resumed accordingly, and to be again in Committee To-morrow.

*The Marquess of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 853
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 856

House adjourned at Eight o'clock till To-morrow, at a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS : TUESDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against.—From Kingston-upon-Hull ; and, Worcester Park ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 856

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.—Petition from East Bristol, in favour ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 856

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petition from Blyth, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 857

SMALL LANDOWNERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Renfrewshire, against ; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 857

*Oct. 30.]* *Page*

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

AUDIT OF COUNTY ACCOUNTS (IRELAND) (FEES).—Return [presented 29th October] to be printed. [No. 340] .. .. .. .. .. .. 857

CRIMINAL LUNATICS ASYLUMS ACT, 1860.—Copy presented, of Rules made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 5 of the Criminal Lunatic Asylums Act, 1860, for Parkhurst Criminal Lunatic Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 857

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT.—Copies presented, of four Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, entitled (1) The East Africa Order in Council, 1906; (2) The Ashanti Order in Council, 1906; (3) The Northern Territories Order in Council, 1906; (4) The Gold Coast Boundaries Order in Council [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 857

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copies presented, of two Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, viz.: (1) amending the Orders in Council of 9th May, 1891, and 23rd November, 1893, in regard to the grant of Colonial Certificates of Competency; (2) relating to Seamen's Lodging Houses in the City and County of Kingston-upon-Hull [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 857

NAVAL SAVINGS BANK ACT, 1866.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, approving new Regulations for the administration of Naval Savings Banks [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 857

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, directing an Act passed by the Legislature of Natal (No. 13 of 1906) shall be recognised and given effect to throughout His Majesty's Dominions and on the high seas as if it were part of The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. 857

TREATY SERIES (No. 15, 1906).—Copy presented, of Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska. Signed at Washington, 21st April, 1906. Ratification exchanged at Washington, 16th August, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 858

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

THE MITCHELSTOWN DISTURBANCES.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 858

CORRY No. 2 NATIONAL SCHOOLS—RELATION OF TEACHERS AND MANAGERS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. 859

RAILWAY FROM SLIGO TO ARIGNA—GOVERNMENT GRANT.—Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. 859

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 860

EVICTED TENANTS AT BALLYCOMANE, COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. 860

IRISH POOR LAW REFORM—REPORT OF THE VICE-REGAL COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. 861

*Oct.* 30.] *Page*

BALA ASSESSOR OF INCOME-TAX.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 861

ASSESSMENT OF TAXES—DELEGATION OF DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 861

THE MILITIA AND FOREIGN SERVICE.—Question, Sir Frederick Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. 862

TRIAL OF TURKS FOR MURDER AT BUSRA.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. 862

REPARATION FOR ATTACK ON DR. HORNE AND MR. EADIE NEAR AMOY.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. 863

SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY—ISSUE OF BONDS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 863

ANGLO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT—GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. 864

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CURRENCY—Question, Sir David Brynmor Jones (Swansea District); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 864

BOARD OF TRADE AUDITORS AND LONDON ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANIES.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. 865

BRITISH CONSULS AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—Question, Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. 867

H.M.S. "DREADNOUGHT" AND PORTSMOUTH DRY DOCK.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answor, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. 867

RATES OF KEEPER'S LODGE AT HOLIDAY HILL, LYNDHURST.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. 867

PENSIONS OF SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERKS (ABSTRACTOR CLASS.)—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham); Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. 868

ACCOMMODATION IN BARLINNIE PRISON.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N. W.); Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. .. .. .. .. 868

SMALL HOLDINGS IN HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. .. .. .. .. 869

ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECTED EDUCATION COMMISSION.—Question, Sir George Doughty (Great Grimsby); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. 869

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT—REDUCTION OF QUALIFYING PERIOD—INCREASED COST OF INSURANCE.—Question, Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 870

REDUCTION OF EXPORTS OF GOLD.—Question, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. .. .. .. .. 871

BOMBAY QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON MECCA PILGRIMS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 871

*Oct.* 30.] Page

PAY, PENSIONS, ETC., OF EAST INDIA COMPANY OFFICIALS.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. 871

BELFAST MILITARY CANTEEN—BEEF AND GROCERY CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. 872

DEFERRED PAY OF D. BREMNER (3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE, ALDERSHOT).—Question, Mr. Salter (Hants, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. 872

DISPOSAL OF OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF DISBANDED REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Salter; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. 873

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT.—Question, Sir George Doughty; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 873

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

H.M.S. "DUNCAN."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. .. .. 873

SOAP CONTRACTS FOR THE ADMIRALTY.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. 874

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 874

RIFLE CLUBS.—Question, Mr. Hicks-Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, The Secretary for State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 874

VOLUNTEER TRAINING.—Question, Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 875

6TH (INNISKILLING) DRAGOONS.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, Mr. Haldane ... .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 875

SWORD CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. 875

WAR OFFICE SOAP CONTRACTS.—Questions, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 876

WALTHAM ABBEY.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan) .. .. .. 876

3RD COLDSTREAM GUARDS.—Question, Colonel Lockwood; Answer, Mr. Buchanan .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 877

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Questions, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool), Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) and The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 877

CHINESE COOLIES IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 878

Page

HARRAR.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. 879

CURACOA SULPHATE MINES.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 879

ALIENS IN THE BRITISH CONSULAR SERVICE.—Questions, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 880

ARZILA.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. 881

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 881

TRADES UNIONS AND CORONERS' INQUESTS.—Questions, Mr. Hooper (Dudley); Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. 88

DIACHYLON.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 883

BOLTON POACHING CASE.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 883

HUGH WATT.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. 884

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 885

DISEASED ALIEN IMMIGRANTS.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 885

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES IN GUERNSEY.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 886

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL TEACHER AND OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.): Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 886

RIFLE SHOOTING IN SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. J. Ward, Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 888

SWANSEA SCHOOL DISPUTE.—Questions, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley), Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. .. 888

FREE MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.), Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) .. 889

MAGAZINE RATES FOR CANADA.—Question, Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 890

POST OFFICE CLOCKS.—Question, Mr. Clough (Yorkshire, W.R., Shipton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 890

LOCAL POST OFFICE GUIDES.—Question, Mr. Maclean (Bath); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 891

Oct. 30.] *Page*

SOAP FOR THE OFFICE OF WORKS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay ; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. .. 891

WELSH TRADE UNION DISPUTE.—Questions, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Keir Hardie ; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) .. .. 891

GOVERNMENT PRINTING CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.) ; Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 893

SANITARY CONDITION OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. .. 893

DR. DITTMAR'S REPORT ON THE LEWS.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 893

SCOTTISH MEDICAL INSPECTORATE.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 894

KELLS FISHING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. .. .. 894

IRISH TRADE REPORTS.—Question, Mr. Boland ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. 895

COUNTY DOWN DEPUTY LIEUTENANCY.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.), Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) ; Answers, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. 845

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 895

LAND COURT WORK IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 896

LISNAGRY LABOURER'S COTTAGE.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 897

MOUNTMELLICK EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory) ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 898

SOAP FOR IRISH BOARD OF WORKS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay ; Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 898

KILGARVAN (CORK) POSTAL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) ; Answer Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 898

LOCAL TAXATION REFORM.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) ; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. 899

THE DINNER-HOUR.—Question, Colonel Lockwood ; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 899

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Census of Production Bill : Lord Balcarres, Mr. Harmood-Banner, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, Mr. Boland, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Brigg, Mr. Lever, Mr. Waterlow, Mr. J. W. Wilson, Mr. Cory, Mr. Hutton, Captain Faber, Mr. Richardson, Sir George Doughty, and Mr. Cairns.

Report to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 900

*Oct.* 30.] *Page*

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham), in the Chair.]

Another Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, 'In the event of the person's name being removed from the register the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 900
*The First Commissioner of Works* (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 900
*Mr. Carlile* (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) .. .. .. .. .. 901
*Mr. Rowlands* (*Kent, Dartford*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 903
*Mr. William Rutherford* (*Liverpool, West Derby*) .. .. .. .. 904

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 301. (Division List No. 343.)

*Mr. Fell* (*Great Yarmouth*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 907

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'Any technical or other mistake made by the clerk or printer may be rectified by a judge of the High Court on the application of the party affected.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 908
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 909

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Nield* (*Middlesex, Ealing*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 910

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'The clerk of the county council, town clerk, or registration officer shall, on or before the fifteenth day of August in each year, send to all electors on the register of voters whose residence is not in the constituency for which he is qualified as a voter, a notice informing him that he is a registered elector for other than the constituency in which he resides, and that he must make a selection on or before the first day of September in accordance with this Act.'"—(*Mr. Nield.*)

*Oct.* 30.] *Page*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 910
*Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 911
*Mr. Nield* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 912
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.)* .. .. .. .. 913
*Sir William Bull (Hammersmith)* .. .. .. .. .. 914
*Mr. Nield* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 914

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, after the words last inserted, to insert the words 'Provided always that the clerk shall give public notice before the registers are finally printed that they are open for inspection at his office between the hours of ten of the clock in the forenoon and four of the clock in the afternoon, and any person shall be at liberty to attend at such office for the purpose of pointing out any mistake made in regard to any selection, and the said clerk shall correct any such mistake which is proved to have been made.'"—(*Mr. Nield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 915
*Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 916
*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. .. .. .. .. 917

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 85; Noes, 329. (Division List No. 344.)

*Viscount Castlereagh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 921

Amendment proposed—

"On page 1, line 28, to add the words, 'The notice of selection may be withdrawn by the voter himself or by an agent authorised by him in writing in a form prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 923
*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. .. .. .. .. 924
*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.)* .. .. .. .. 924
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 925
*Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash)* .. .. .. .. 925
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 925

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

*Mr. Fell* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 926

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, to leave out sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Fell.*)

*Page*

Question proposed, "That the words 'if any person' stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 927
*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 927
*Mr. Wm. Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 928

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Viscount Castlereagh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 929

Amendment proposd—

"In page 2, line 9, to insert the words, '(*c*) Sends or causes to be sent a notice of withdrawal of selection without the authority of the person who has the right to select.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 929
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 930
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 930

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. Fell* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 930

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out from the word 'be' to end of subsection, and to insert the words, 'liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'an,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 931

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 358 ; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 345.)

*Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University)* .. .. .. .. .. 935

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out from the word 'of,' to end of clause, and to insert the words, 'an offence, and shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and be incapable during a period of five years from the date of his conviction of being registered as an elector or voting at any election (whether it be a Parliamentary election or an election for a public office) held for or within the county or borough in which the illegal practice has been committed.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the second word 'of,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 937
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 937
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 938

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."—*(Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.)*

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 356 ; Noes, 96. (Division List No. 346.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the second word 'of,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 359 ; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 347.)

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN claimed "That the Question 'That the clause as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 361 ; Noes, 96. (Division List No. 348.)

Question put accordingly, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 362 ; Noes, 93. (Division List No. 349.)

Clause 2 :—

*Mr. Forster* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 959

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, to leave out the word 'negative,' and insert the word 'affirmative.'"—*(Mr. Forster.)*

Agreed to.

*Sir E. Carson (Dublin University)* .. .. .. .. .. 960

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'vote,' to insert the words, unless he states to the presiding officer that he has sent a notice in accordance with the provisions of the first section of this Act.'"—*(Sir E. Carson.)*

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 960
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 961
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. . .. 962
*Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)* .. .. .. .. .. 962
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 962

Question put.

The Committee divided: —Ayes, 83; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 350.)

*Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall)* .. .. .. .. .. 965

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 21, at end, to insert the words, 'Provided always that the presiding officer shall not give into custody any person charged with personation unless such person has actually voted.' "—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 967

Amendment to the proposed Amendment—

"After the word 'personation' to insert the words 'under this Act.' "—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there added."

*Mr. Stanley Wilson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 967

Question put, and agreed to.

*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 968

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 22, to leave out the words, 'Section eighty-one of.' "—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed be to left out stand part of the clause."

*Sir W. Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 968
*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 968
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 969

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet)* .. .. .. .. .. 969

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 26, after the word 'voter,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'knowingly' be there inserted."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 970

Amendment, to the proposed Amendment—

"To add the words 'and with intention to evade the provisions of this Act.'"

Agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 970

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 29, at end, to insert the words, '(3) If any person attempts to prevent a registered elector from voting by threats of proceedings under this Act, without having good reasons to believe that the voter is disqualified by the provisions of the Act, he shall be guilty of an illegal practice within the meaning of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Hacrourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 972
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 972
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 972
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 973
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. — .. .. 974
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) .. .. .. 974
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 975
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 975
*Captain Craig* (*Down, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 976

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 :—

*Captain Craig* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 976

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words, 'And as respects Ireland under Section 3 of the Parliamentary Registration (Ireland) Act, 1885.'"

Amendment negatived.

*Mr. Courthope* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 977

*Oct.* 30.] *Page*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

*Sir F. Banbury* .. 977
*Sir William Bull (Hammersmith)* .. 978
*Mr. Harcourt* .. 980
*Mr. Walter Long* .. 980
*Mr. Fell* .. 981
*Mr. H. H. Marks* .. 982
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. 982

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 299 ; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 351.)

Clause 4 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. Fell* .. 986
*Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.)* .. 987
*Sir W. Robson* .. 988
*Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham)* .. 988

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 309 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 352.)

Clause 5 :—

*Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs)* .. 991
*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.)* .. 993

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 13, to leave out from the word 'Act' to the end of the sub-section."—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'including,' in line 16, stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Gulland* .. 994
*Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities)* .. 995
*The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thos. Shaw, Hawick Burghs)* .. 996
*Mr. Walter Long* .. 997
*Mr. Charles Craig* .. 998
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. 998
*Mr. Wyndham (Dover)* .. 999
*Mr. Mitchell Thomson* .. 999
*Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton)* .. 999
*Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)* .. 1000
*Lord R. Cecil* .. 1000
*Mr. Courthope* .. 1001
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. 1001
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. 1002

*Oct.* 30.] Page

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1002
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1002
*Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1003
*Viscount Turnour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1003
*Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton)* .. .. .. .. .. 1004

Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 341 ; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 353.)

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at two minutes after Eleven o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF LORDS : WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

### *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.—Report from the Committee of Selection That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bill, viz. : E. Morley ; L. Clifford of Chudleigh (chairman) ; L. Belhaven and Stenton ; L. Clements (*E. Leitrim*) ; L. Pirrie ; agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly : The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill 1009

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against ; of inhabitants of Melton-Mowbray and district, and parish of Heaton. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1009

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious education in schools ; of the Diocesan Council of the Mothers' Union in Winchester diocese ; parents and guardians of children attending a school at Warton ; and inhabitants of the parish of Westham. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1009

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

TRADE REPORTS : ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3726. Mexico. Presented, by Command, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1009

*Oct.* 31.] *Page*

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—House again in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1010
*The Lord President of the Council (The Earl of Crewe)* .. .. .. 1012
*Lord Herries* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1013
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1013

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out 'for the purpose of continuing,' and to insert 'shall, if required by the owners, continue.'"

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," resolved in the negative.

On Question, that the words "shall, if required by the owners, continue" be here inserted, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 209; Not-contents, 47.

*Viscount Ridley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1020

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out, 'for the purpose of continuing,' and to insert, 'shall continue.'"—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1020
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1022
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1022
*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1022
*The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Fitzmaurice)* .. 1023
*Lord Heneage* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1023
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1023

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out 'in cases where they desire to do so,' and to insert 'and.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 13 and 14, to leave out, 'with the consent of the Board of Education.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1025

*Oct.* 31.] *Page*

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'education,' to insert 'and with the consent of any person whose consent would have been required for the purposes of or transfer under Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1027
*Lord Davey* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1029
*Lord Alverstone* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1031
*Lord Barnard* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1032
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1032

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1033

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, to leave out lines 1 and 2 and to insert 'owners themselves to execute if they desire the work needed to make.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1034
*The Lord Bishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1036
*The Marquess of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1037

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, after 'alterations,' to insert 'additions.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Lord Ampthill* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1038

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'provided' to insert the words 'If the local education authority fail to make an arrangement by agreement with the owners of the school house, the arrangement shall be made by the Commission appointed under this Act, and the provisions of this Act with reference to schemes shall apply to any arrangement made by the Commission.

"Provided that if the local education authority consider that the school house of any existing voluntary school is, on account of its structural condition, not suited for continued recognition as a public elementary school, *or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation*, they may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board may, if they think fit, appoint a date at which the school shall cease to be recognised, and the authority shall be under no obligation to continue any such school under this section."—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Page
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1040
*Viscount Llandaff* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1040
*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1040
*Lord Zouch of Haryngworth* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1041
*The Lord Bishop of Southwark* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1041
*The Lord Bishop of St. Asaph* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1042
*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1042

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

"To insert, after the words, 'and the Board may,' the words 'after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*The Lord Bishop of London* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1043
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1043
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1044
*The Lord Bishop of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1044
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1045

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1045

On Question, "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 197; Not-contents, 52.

On Question, remaining words of Amendment agreed to.

*Lord Barnard* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1049

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'power' to insert the words 'subject to the approval of the Board of Education.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1053

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*Lord Barnard* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1055

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out the word 'any,' and to insert the word 'an.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1055

On Question amendment agreed to.

*Lord Barnard* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1055

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, to leave out from the word 'section' to the end of the sub-section, and insert, 'Provided that such arrangement includes as far as may be, having regard to the altered circumstances of the case, adequate provisions for the preservation of such trusts, and for the protection of the endowment subject thereto.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

*Lord Fitzmaurice* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1057
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1059
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1060
*Lord Burghclere* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1062
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1062

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, to leave out the words from the word 'section' to the end of the sub-section."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 25, at end of sub-section to insert the words, 'Provided that such arrangement includes as far as may be, having regard to the altered circumstances of the case, adequate provisions for the preservation of such trusts, and for the protection of the endowment subject thereto.'"

Agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:—

*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1064
*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 1066
*Lord Balfour of Burleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1067

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'schoolhouse,' to insert the words 'or if in the case of any public elementary school in which extended facilities are not afforded under this Act the parents of not less than twenty children have required such facilities.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Moved, "That the House be resumed."—(*Lord Reay.*)

Question agreed to.

House resumed accordingly, and to be again in Committee To-morrow.

House adjourned at Five minutes past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 31st OCTOBER 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

### PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Group K.).—Sir Joseph Leese reported from the Committee on Group K of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1083

### PETITIONS.

Betting and Gambling.—Petition from Glasgow, for legislation; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1084

Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1084

### RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 506 (Mauritius, Annual Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1084

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3726 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1084

Post Office (Parcel Post Between Great Britain and Nicaragua).—Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Nicaragua for the direct exchange of Parcels by Parcel Post, dated 4th July, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1084

Cotton Growing.—Address for "Return of Correspondence between the India Office and the Government of India and the British Cotton Growing Association which has taken place since the presentation of C. 1982 of Session 1904."—(*Mr. Rees.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1084

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Telegraphic Delays.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. 1084

Submarine Lifting Machinery.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. 1085

Shipbuilding—Cost of Hulls.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1086

South Western District Office Cycle Postmen.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. 1086

Government Contractors and Fair Wages.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1086

*Oct.* 31.] Page

WAYGOOD AND COMPANY'S CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1087

BENGAL TENANCY ACT.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1087

PARTITION OF BENGAL.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1088

INDIAN ARMY QUICK FIRING GUNS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1088

INDIAN MILITARY BURDEN.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1088

CONTRACTS FOR MUNITIONS OF WAR.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1089

CASE OF JOHN WHITWORTH, PLUMSTEAD.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1089

DISTRESS IN WOOLWICH.—Question, Sir William Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. 1090

CAVALRY IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burgh); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1090

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY FUND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti (Dublin College Green); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. 1090

IRISH ASSISTANT TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1091

FALCHORRIB LANDING STAGE.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1091

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL PREFERENCE BILL.—Question, Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 1091

CONVICTION OF JUVENILES.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1092

MOTOR CAR AND BUS ACCIDENTS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1093

ALLOWANCES TO SIGNAL LIEUTENANTS IN THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. 1095

FREEBOARD ON CARGO SHIPS.—Question, Mr. Barker (Penryn and Falmouth); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1095

VACCINATION PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1096

SITE OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER COUNTY COURT.—Question, Mr. W. F. D. Smith; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. 1096

REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPHIC RATES TO INDIA.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1097

ARMY OFFICERS' MARRIED QUARTERS AT POONA.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. .. 1097

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Question, Mr Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1098

THE HOME FLEET.—Question, Mr. Ridsdale (Brighton); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1098

SLEEPING SICKNESS.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester) 1099

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. 1099

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1100

UNEMPLOYED WHITE LABOUR ON THE RAND.—Questions, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green), Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answers, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 1101

RAND MINE REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1101

THE CHICAGO SCANDALS.—Question, Sir William Bull (Hammersmith); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 1102

THE BAHR-ET-GHAZAL.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 1102

MOROCCO AND THE ALGECIRAS PROTOCOL.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1102

IMPRISONMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, E.) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1102

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1103

MOTOR PROSECUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1104

MOTOR OMNIBUS ACCIDENTS IN LONDON.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 1105

ALIEN IMMIGRATION.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 1105

DEPORTED ALIENS.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1106

GERMAN GIPSIES.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1107

GLOUCESTER PRISON OUTBREAK.—Questions, Mr. Godfrey Baring (Isle of Wight), Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. 1107

*Oct.* 31.] *Page*

VIVISECTION COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Ridsdale (Brighton), Mr. G. Greenwood (Peterborough), Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1108

THE IMPRISONED FEMALE SUFFRAGISTS.—Questions, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.), Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1108

PRISON DISCIPLINE.—Questions, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.), Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1110

CASE OF MR. NETTLETON OF SOUTHEND.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1111

LONDON RESTAURANTS' CLOSING HOURS.—Questions, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.), Mr. Pickersgill; Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 1112

CHOBHAM MOTOR FATALITY.—Questions, Mr. Weir, Mr. Lupton; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. 1113

SOUTH STONEHAM UNION.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. 1114

DEATHS FROM STARVATION IN LONDON.—Questions, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham), Mr. Crooks (Woolwich), Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answers, Mr. John Burns .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1115

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Butcher (Cambridge University); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1116

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS.—Questions, Dr. Cooper, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.), Mr. Pickersgill; Answers, Mr. Birrell .. .. .. .. 1116

AIGNISH CROFTER SETTLEMENT ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. .. .. 1118

SANITATION AT CROMARTY AND STORNOWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1118

FOREIGN TRAWLERS OFF THE SCOTCH COAST.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1118

BLACKPOOL POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1119

PRESTON POST OFFICE REVISION.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1119

SUB-POSTMASTERS' HOLIDAYS.—Question, Mr. Raphael (Derbyshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1119

STOKE-ON-TRENT POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1120

MAINDEE WEST SIGNAL BOX.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1120

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION BILL.—Question, Mr. Liddell (Down, W.); Answer, Mr. Kearley .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1121

H.M.S. "VIGILANT."—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouth, N.) .. .. .. 1122

COAST PROTECTION.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. McKenna 1122

BURWELL ESTATE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Questions, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet), Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry), Mr. Winfrey (Norfolk, S.W.), Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, Sir Edward Strachey 1123

SIR ANTONY MACDONNEL.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. .. .. 1124

CLAREMORRIS UNION CLERKSHIP.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1125

BRITISH FLAG AT THE MUNSTER-CONNAUGHT EXHIBITION.—Questions, Captain Craig, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. 1126

IRISH LANGUAGE IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1129

ATHENRY CATTLE OUTRAGES.—Questions, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.), Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara), Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1127

LOUGHREA DISTRICT COUNCIL—CLAIMS FOR MALICIOUS INJURY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. 1128

IRISH SCHOOL BUILDING GRANTS.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1128

STRABANE LABOURERS' COTTAGES ACTS.—Question, Mr. McVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1129

IRISH PRIMARY EDUCATION DEFICIENCES.—Questions, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.), Mr. Sloan, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. 1130

MALICIOUS INJURY CLAIMS IN GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Charles Graig (Antrim, S.), Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. 1131

JUDGE ANDERSON AND CRIME IN GALWAY COUNTY.—Question, Colonel McCalmont (Antrim, E.), Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. 1132

LISNAGRY EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1133

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS AND EX-SERVICE MEN.—Questions, Sir Samuel Scott (Marylebone, W.), Mr. Byles; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) .. 1133

*Oct.* 31.] *Page*

Business of the House.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. .. 1134

*NEW BILL.*

**Employment of Barmaids Bill.**—"To restrict the employment of barmaids," presented by Mr. Gooch, supported by Mr. Alden, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Henderson, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Maddison, and Mr. T. W. Russell; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 345] .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1134

Business of the House.—Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the Committee stage of the Plural Voting Bill, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 324; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 354.) .. 1134

**Plural Voting Bill.**

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 5:—

*Mr. Courthope* (*Sussex, Rye*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1139

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, lines 17 and 18, to leave out the words 'whose notice of selection does,' in order to insert the words 'so that his qualification shall.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*The Lord-Advocate* (*Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs*) .. .. 1140
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 1140
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1141
*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson* (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) .. .. .. .. 1142
*Sir F. Banbury* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1143
*Viscount Turnour* (*Sussex, Horsham*) .. .. .. .. .. 1143
*Mr. Mitchell-Thompson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1144
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1144

Mr. Thomas Shaw rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 355.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The House divided :—Ayes, 337 ; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 356.)

*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1153

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 22, to leave out the word 'county,' and insert the word 'sheriff.'"—(*Mr. Thomas Shaw.*)

Question proposed, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1153
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1153

Question put, and negatived.

Question put, "That the word 'sheriff' be there inserted."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 349 ; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 357.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 23, at end, to add the words, 'and Section 3 of the Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1880, shall be substituted for Section 81 of the Parliamentary Voters' Registration Act, 1843 ; and the expression 'university' shall include a combination of universities.'"—(*Mr. Thomas Shaw.*)

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

*Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby)* .. .. .. 1159

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words 'Provided always that nothing contained in this section shall empower the Secretary for Scotland to alter or modify the terms of any Act of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1159
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1160
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1162
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.)* .. .. .. .. 1162
*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1163

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities)* .. .. .. 1163
*Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1166
*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1166

Oct. 31.] Page

*Mr. Thomas Shaw* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1168
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1168
*Viscount Turnour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1169

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 364 ; Noes, 86. (Division List, No. 358.)

*Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1173

New clause—

"Nothing in this Act shall deprive any person (who at the date of the passing of this Act is registered in respect of any qualification to vote for any county or borough) of his right to be from time to time registered and to vote for such county or borough in respect of such qualifications in like manner as if this Act had not passed."—(*Mr. Pike Pease*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

*The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1175
*Mr. Akers-Douglas (Kent, St. Augustine's)* .. .. .. .. 1176
*Mr. Meysey-Thompson (Staffordshire, Handsworth)* .. .. .. 1176
*Viscount Turnour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1178
*Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1178
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1179
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1180

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 360. (Division List No. 309).

*Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1185

New clause—

"No proceedings shall be taken under this Act except on the fiat of the Attorney-General."—(*Mr. H. H. Marks*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1186
*Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1187

Proposed new clause by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton)* .. .. .. .. .. 1187

New clause—

"A parliamentary voter may withdraw any selection made by him on giving notice to the clerk of the county council or town clerk having charge of the registers in which such selection was operative on or before the thirty-first day of August in any year."—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1188
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1188
*Mr. Cave* (*Surrey, Kingston*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1188
*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1189

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 69 ; Noes, 343. (Division List No. 360).

*Mr. Staveley Hill* (*Staffordshire, Kingswinford*) .. .. .. .. 1193

New clause—

"Any clerk of the county council or town clerk who shall wilfully neglect to carry out the provisions of this Act or any part thereof or who shall be wilfully guilty of any breach in the execution of this Act shall for every such offence be liable to pay, by way of fine, a sum of money not exceeding five pounds, nor less than twenty shillings, to be imposed by and at the discretion of any barrister holding any court for the revision of any list of the parish or township of any such clerk of the county council or town clerk."—(*Mr. Staveley Hill*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1194

Question put, and negatived.

*Lord Balcarres* (*Lancashire, Chorley*) .. .. .. .. .. 1195

New clause—

"The Clerk of the Crown shall, on demand, supply a certificate signed by him, certifying the name and address and qualification of any elector who has voted at a Parliamentary election in any constituency in any county or borough and the date upon which such election was held. The fee for such certificate shall not exceed one shilling."—(*Lord Balcarres*).

Brought up, and read the first time.

*Oct.* 31.] *Page*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1196

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Ashley* (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) .. .. .. .. .. 1196

New clause—

"Notwithstanding anything in Section 64 of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, contained, no person registered as a Parliamentary elector in any constituency, but debarred by Section 1 of this Act from voting in that constituency in any election, shall be held to be an elector in that election and constituency within the meaning of that Act."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1197
*Mr. Lyttelton* (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) .. .. .. .. 1197
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1197
*Mr. Stuart Wortley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1198
*Mr. Arthur Henderson* (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) .. .. .. 1198
*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1199
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1199

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new clause—

"After the word 'of' in the last line to insert the words, 'Section 7 of.'"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1200
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1201
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1201
*Mr. William Rutherford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1202
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1203
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1203
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1204
*Mr. Cave* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1205

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'Section 7' and insert the words 'Section 1, 7 and 14.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'Section 7' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1206

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question put, "That the words 'Section 7 of' be there inserted in the proposed new clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 295 ; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 361.)

Question proposed, "That the clause, as amended, be added to the Bill."

*Mr. H. H. Marks* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1209
*Mr. Claude Hay* (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) .. .. .. .. .. 1209
*Mr. Asquith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1210
*Mr. H. H. Marks* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1210
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1211

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, be added to the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 294 ; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 362.)

*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1213

New clause—

"Where the name of any person is inserted on the register of Parliamentary voters for the first time the clerk of the county council or town clerk shall serve a notice of the fact on such person, and shall thereby give him notice that if he is registered in any other constituency it is necessary to serve a notice in accordance with and in the form and manner prescribed by the first section of this Act."—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1215

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1215

New clause—

"(1) The officer responsible for the printing of the Parliamentary register in each constituency shall as soon as such register is printed send a copy of the register to the Local Government Board and it shall be the duty of the Local Government Board to forthwith compare all such registers and to mark the names of all plural voters with a distinguishing mark ; (2) The register so marked shall be sent on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year to the returning officer of the constituency for which it was compiled, and every elector whose name appears on that register without such distinguishing mark shall be entitled to vote at elections in that constituency notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the provisions of this Act unless his name shall have been struck off by the revising barrister at the revision court."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1217
*Mr. Austen Chamberlain* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1217

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Nield* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1219

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 3, after the word 'you,' to insert the words 'to your knowledge.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 6, after '1861,' to insert the words 'and The Universities Election Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

*Mr. Bonar Law* (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) .. .. .. .. .. 1220
*Sir William Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1220

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 8, after the word 'not' to insert the word 'to my knowledge.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

*Mr. Harcourt* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1220

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 346.]

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at half after Nine o'clock.

## HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

### *PETITIONS.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against—Of inhabitants of parish and district of Helmsley; Shipton Mayne; parish of North Waltham. Of parents attending church schools in the parish of Moldgreen.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. .. .. 1221

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

Post Office.—Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Republic of Nicaragua, dated 4th July, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. 1221

Light Railways Act, 1896.—I. Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways:—In the urban district of Tottenham, in the county of Middlesex; in the rural district of Bath, in the country of Somerset, from Weston to Lansdown; in the rural district of Keynsham, in the county of Somerset (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of Bath Electric Tramways, Limited); in the West Riding of the county of York, from Clayton West to Darton; in the parishes of Kettle and of Falkland, in the county of Fife, from Falkland Road Station to Falkland; in the county of Cardigan, from Lampeter to Aberayron, and to New Quay; in the county of Carnarvon (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of the Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Company), and the transfer to that company of the powers conferred upon the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1900, and other matters.

II. Order made by the Right Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending Bere Alston and Calstock Light Railways Orders, 1900 and 1903, and for other purposes .. .. .. .. 1221

Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland).—Report on the trade in imports and exports at the Irish Ports during the year ended 31st December, 1904 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1222

Evictions (Ireland).—Return of Evictions in Ireland for the Quarter ended 30th September, 1906 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1222

Colonies: Annual.—No. 507. Southern Nigeria (Lagos). Report for 1905.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. .. .. 1222

Public Records (Prisons).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the prison of the Marshalsea of the Court of King's or Queen's Bench, the "Queen's Prison," the Fleet Prison, and the Prison of the Marshalsea of His Majesty's Household and Palace Court, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... .. .. .. .. .. .. 1222

*Nov.* 1.] Page

**Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.**—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1222

**Education (England and Wales) Bill.**—House again in Committee (according to Order.)

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair]

Clause 3 :—

*Lord Reay* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1222
*Lord Ampthill* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1226

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the word 'twenty' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Lord Ampthill.*)

*The Duke of Devonshire* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1230
*The Under-Secretary of State for War* (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) .. .. 1234
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1236
*The Earl of Jersey* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1240
*The Lord Bishop of Hereford* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1241
*The Lord Bishop of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1242
*Viscount Goschen* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1242
*The Lord President of the Council* (*The Earl of Crewe*) .. .. .. 1245
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1251
*Lord Balfour of Burleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1256
*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. .. .. .. .. 1257
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1258
*The Lord Privy-Seal* (*The Marquess of Ripon*) .. .. .. .. 1259

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*The Lord Bishop of Hereford* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1259

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'school-house,' to insert the words 'or if in any parish in a rural area there is only one public elementary school provided for the children of the parish, and the parents of a reasonable number of children have required such facilities, the local.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

*The Marquess of Londonderry* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1261
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1261
*Viscount St. Aldwyn* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1264
*The Lord Bishop of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1264
*Lord Courtney* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1265
*The Marquess of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1266

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'parish in a rural area,' and insert the word 'district.'"—(*The Marquess of Salisbury*).

Page
*Lord Belhaven and Stenton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1269
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1269
*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1272
*Lord Stanley of Alderleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1275
*Lord Heneage* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1275
*The Lord Bishop of St. Asaph* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1276
*The Marquess of Lansdowne* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1276

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*The Lord Bishop of Oxford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1277
*Lord Joicey* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1277

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the word 'that.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*The Lord Bishop of Birmingham* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1278

Ameddment moved:—

"In page 3, line 11, after the word 'instruction,' to insert 'for not less than a clear half hour each morning.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Birmingham*).

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1279

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*The Lord Bishop of Oxford* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1279

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 11, to leave out from the word 'instruction' to the end of sub-section (1).'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Oxford.*)

*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1281
*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1281
*The Lord Bishop of St. Davids* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1281
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1281
*The Marquess of Salisbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1282
*The Earl of Camperdown* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1284
*The Earl of Crewe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1285
*Viscount Halifax* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1286
*Lord Ashbourne* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1286
*Lord Stanley of Alderley* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1286
*The Lord Bishop of Birmingham* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1288

On Question, whether the words proposed to be left out should stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 49; Not-Contents, 141.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee on Monday next.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.—On the Motion "That this House do now adjourn."

*Lord Newton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1291
*The Marquess of Ripon* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1291
*The Earl of Halsbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1293
*Lord Grimthorpe* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1293

House adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock, to Monday next, at quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1906.

The House met at quarter before Three of the Clock.

### *PETITIONS.*

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Leintwardine, and Little Hereford, to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1294

EXPLOSIVES IN COAL MINES.—Petition of C. E. Parker-Rhodes, for inquiry; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1294

LABOUR TEST WORKERS (ENFRANCHISEMENT).—Petition from Whitehaven, for legislation; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1294

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Wolverhampton, in favour; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. 1294

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Bere, Alston, and Calstock Light Railways Orders, 1900 and 1903, and for other purposes (Bere, Alston, and Calstock Light Railway (Extension of Time, etc.) Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 1294

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Carnarvon (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of the Portmadoc, Beddgelert and South Snowdon Railway Company) and the transfer to that company of the powers conferred upon the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways Company by the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1900, and other matters (Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1294

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Cardigan, from Lampeter to Aberayron and to New Quay (Lampeter, Aberayron, and New Quay Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon he Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1295

*Nov.* 1.]

*Page*

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners and confirmed by the Board of Trade authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the West Riding of the county of York, from Clayton West to Darton (Clayton West and Darton Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 1295

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the rural district of Bath, in the county of Somerset, from Weston to Lansdown (Bath and Lansdown Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1295

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the rural district of Keynsham, in the county of Somerset (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of Bath Electric Tramways, Limited) (Bath Electric Tramways (Light Railway Extensions) Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1295

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Kettle and Falkland, in the county of Fife, from Falkland Road Station to Falkland (Falkland Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1296

Light Railways Act, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the urban district of Tottenham in the county of Middlesex (Tottenham Walthamstow Light Railways Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. 1296

Evictions (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1296

Import and Export Trade (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports during the year ended 31st December, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. .. .. 1296

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.—Public Records (Prisons). Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Prison of the Marshalsea of the Court of King's or Queen's Bench, the "Queen's Prison," the Fleet Prison, and the Prison of the Marshalsea of His Majesty's Household and Palace Court, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act] .. .. .. .. .. 1296

Street Betting (Convictions).—Address for "Return showing the number of Convictions for Street Betting during the years 1903, 1904, and 1905 in the Metropolitan Police District, and in each of the boroughs of Birmingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Blackpool, York, Bradford, and Manchester, with the number of cases in which the persons convicted were apprehended without warrant, and also, as regards the boroughs of Blackpool, York, Bradford, and Manchester, the number of cases in which a fine exceeding £5, or imprisonment without option of fine, was imposed for a second or subsequent offence."—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*) .. 1296

*Nov.* 1.] *Page*

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

H.M.S. "PHILOMEL."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1297

AMERICAN PASSENGERS AND DUBLIN MAIL TRAINS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. 1297

POST OFFICE MEDICAL OFFICERS—RETIREMENT REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1298

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1299

CASE OF LANCE-CORPORAL GRAY.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. 1299

CRIMEAN AND INDIAN MUTINY VETERANS.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1300

CUSTOMS EXAMINING OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Cleland, Glasgow (Bridgeton); Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1300

COAL EXPORT RECORDS.—Question, Mr. Cairns (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Mr. McKenna .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1302

PRISON DISCIPLINE.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1302

BURWELL ESTATE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Question, Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. .. .. .. .. 1303

BLACKLION POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. . .. .. 1303

TELEGRAPH PRESS RATES TO INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. 1304

KEIGHLEY POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley); Answer, Mr. Syndey Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1304

H.M.S. "MONTAGU."—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1305

INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. 1305

BRITISH INDIAN MISSION TO SOUTH-EASTERN PERSIA.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. 1305

CHOWKIDARI TAX IN BENGAL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 1306

FREEMOUNT NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1306

CAPTAIN CALDBECK'S ESTATE, QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. 1307

AGHANVILLE ESTATE, KING'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1307

FORTS ON THE SURREY HILLS—DISPOSAL OF SITES.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. 1308

AMERICAN TINNED MEAT.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1311

## QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL MANŒUVRES.—Question, Mr. Beauchamp (Suffolk, Lowestoft); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. .. 1311

CRITICISMS OF NAVAL DESIGNS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1311

NEWFOUNDLAND NAVAL RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. 1312

NAVAL RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1312

H.M.S. "MONTAGU."—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1312

THE FLEET.—Questions, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington), Viscount Turnour (Sussex, Horsham); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. 1313

DOCKYARD WAGES.—Question, Mr. Jenkins (Chatham); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1313

WAR OFFICE LAND AT FAIRLIGHT.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 1314

BEXHILL SEA WALL.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. 1314

NETLEY HOSPITAL NURSES.—Questions, Mr. Rendall (Gloucestershire, Thornbury), Mr. Clement Edwards (Denbigh District); Answers, Mr. Haldane .. 1315

ESSEX FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1316

BRIDGING THE GANGES.—Question, Sir Frederick Banbury (City of London); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) .. 1316

THE PARTITION OF BENGAL.—Questions, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent), Mr. W. Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Mr. Morley .. .. .. .. .. 1316

TIBET.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Morley .. .. 1318

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS IN BRITISH AFRICAN PROTECTORATES.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) .. .. .. .. .. 1319

CHIROMO GAME PRESERVE.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 1319

*Nov.* 1.] Page

BRITISH INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston), Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 1320

BRITISH WEST AFRICAN PRODUCE COMPANY, LIMITED.—Questions, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire), Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire), Mr. Smeaten (Stirlingshire); Answers, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. 1320

COOLIE LABOUR RETURN.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1323

THE TRANSVAAL AND THE FINANCE ACT.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 1324

TRINADAD.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 1324

COOLIE PRISONERS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 1324

PROPOSED WEST AFRICAN COUNCIL.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 1325

COMPULSORY LABOUR IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. J. Ward; Answers, Mr. Churchill .. .. .. .. .. .. 1326

BAGHDAD RAILWAY PROJECT.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1326

CHINESE CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. 1327

PIRACY IN THE CANTON DELTA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1327

THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1327

ABYSSINIA.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1328

CASE OF JEREMIAH GOWER.—Question, Mr. Thorne; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. .. .. 1328

RATS IN HOLLOWAY PRISON.—Questions, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey), Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.), Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answers, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. 1328

LOCAL PRISONS.—Question, Mr. Staveley-Hill (Staffordshire, Kingswinford); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1329

SALISBURY RAILWAY DISASTER.—Question, Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1330

MIDLAND GOODS TRAIN.—Question, Mr. Hudson; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. 1330

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1331

VACANT RAILWAY AND CANAL COMMISSIONERSHIP.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. 1331

DISTRICT RAILWAY FARES.—Question, Mr. Bowerman (Deptford); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1332

TRADE COMBINES.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1332

INSPECTION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Questions, Mr. Bertram (Herefordshire, Hitchin), Colonel Lockwood; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George .. .. 1334

GRANT FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.—Questions, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1335

BETTING BY TELEGRAM.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. .. .. 1335

BETTING BY TELEPHONE.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1336

PRIVATE LETTER-BOXES IN SCOTTISH POST OFFICES.—Question, Sir J. Jardine; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1336

RE-DIRECTION OF MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S TELEGRAMS.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. .. .. .. .. 1336

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Snowden (Blackburn); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1337

THE MALL IMPROVEMENT.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. .. 1338

REX *v.* FOWLER.—Questions, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye), Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire), Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Hicks Beach, Mr. Ashley, Viscount Turnour; Answers, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1338

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION FUNDS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme; Answer, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, (Bristol, E.) .. .. .. 1343

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC IN ROXBURGHSHIRE.—Question, Sir J. Jardine; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. .. 1343

TOBACCO GROWING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen), The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1343

AGHANVILLE ESTATE, GEASHILL.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1344

LIMERICK FISHERY DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1345

Nov. 1.] Page

Sir Henry Burke's Estate, Loughrea.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1345

Galway Grazing Land.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. 1346

Clifden Disturbance.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1346

The Appointment of County Magistrates.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. 1347

Minister of Commerce.—Questions, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil), Sir J. Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth), Mr. R. Duncan (Lanarkshire, Govan); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. 1347

Commission on the Feeble-Minded.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. .. .. .. 1348

Selection (Standing Committee).—Sir Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. H. D. McLaren and Mr. Smeaton.

Report to lie upon the Table .. .. .. .. .. .. 1349

**Trade Disputes Bill**:—As amended, considered.

*Mr. Bowles* (*Lambeth, Norwood*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1349

Amendment proposed—

"That this Act shall remain in force for a period of five years."—(*Mr. Stewart Bowles.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*The Attorney-General* (*Sir John Walton, Leeds. S.*) .. .. .. 1354
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1354
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, W.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1355
*Sir Frederick Banbury* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 1356
*Mr. Stuart Wortley* (*Sheffield, Hallam*) .. .. .. .. .. 1358
*Mr. R. Duncan* (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) .. .. .. .. .. 1359

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. Clavell Salter* (*Hants, Basingstoke*) .. .. .. .. .. 1359
*Mr. Samuel Roberts* (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) .. .. .. .. .. 1360

New Clause:—

"(1) Where a committee of a trade union constituted as hereinafter mentioned has been appointed to conduct on behalf of the union a trade dispute, an action whereby it is sought to charge the funds of the union with damages in respect of any tortious act committed in

Nov. 1.] *Page*

contemplation or furtherance of the trade dispute, shall not lie, unless the act was committed by the committee or by some person acting under their authority. Provided that a person shall not be deemed to have acted under the authority of the committee if the act was an act or one of a class of acts expressly prohibited by a resolution of the committee, or the committee by resolution expressly repudiate the act as soon as it is brought to their knowledge. (2) The committee may be a committee appointed either generally to conduct all trade disputes in which the union may be involved, or to conduct any trade disputes of a specified class or in a specified locality, or to conduct any particular trade dispute."—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton)* .. .. .. .. .. 1364
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.)* .. .. 1367
*Mr. Lyttelton (St. George's, Hanover Square)* .. .. .. .. 1369
*The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire)* .. .. 1371
*Mr. Bonar Law (Camberwell, Dulwich)* .. .. .. .. .. 1375
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1380
*Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe)* .. .. .. .. .. 1383
*Mr. Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe)* .. .. .. .. .. 1386

Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

The House divided:—Ayes, 79; Noes, 372. (Division List No. 363.)

*Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1391

New clause—

"This Act shall not extend to Ireland."—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Butcher (Cambridge University)* .. .. .. .. .. 1393
*Mr. John Redmond (Waterford)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1395
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1397
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1399
*Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1400
*Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1400
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1402
*Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green)* .. .. .. .. .. 1403
*Mr. Chas. Craig (Antrim, S.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1404
*Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1405
*Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University)* .. .. .. .. .. 1405

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 4; Noes, 289. (Division List No. 364.)

*Sir F. Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1409

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, to leave out Clause 1."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the clause proposed to be left out, stand part of the Bill.

*Sir W. Robson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1412

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 283 ; Noes, 35. (Division List No. 365.)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'as a tort.'—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*Mr. F. E. Smith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1415
*Mr. Clavell Salter* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1418

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'one or more' and to insert the words 'a reasonable number of' "—(*Mr. F. E. Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.

*Mr. R. Duncan* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1419
*Sir J. Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1420
*Sir E. Carson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1422
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1426
*Mr. Atherley Jones* (*Durham, N.W.*) .. .. .. .. .. 1429
*Mr. Bell* (*Derby*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1430
*Mr. Rawlinson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1431
*Mr. Rufus Isaacs* (*Reading*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1434
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1438
*Mr. Samuel Evans* (*Glamorganshire, Mid*) .. .. .. .. 1439

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 347 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 366.)

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, further proceeding on consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

Thereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at nine minutes after Eleven o'clock.

Page

## HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

### *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 to 1902 (APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS TO BOARD OF TRADE). Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Dr. Macnamara*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.] .. 1445

### *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

MANCHESTER STAMPING OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1445

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION —PROPORTION OF TEACHERS TO PUPILS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. 1446

GALWAY POLICE FORCE.—Questions, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1447

IRISH RAILWAY RATES ON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. 1449

PROMOTION OF IRISH TEACHERS AND CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Murphy, ; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1450

ARTILLERY PRACTICE AT SHOEBURY—DANGER TO PUBLIC.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. .. .. .. 1451

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; that they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures: Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Branch.

Report to lie upon the Table. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 451

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the House at its rising this day do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

*Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington)* .. .. .. .. 1451
*The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1451

Question put, and agreed to.

**Trade Disputes Bill.**

As amended, further considered.

*Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton)* .. .. .. .. .. 1452
*Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood)* .. .. .. .. .. 1453

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after the words 'trade union' to insert the words 'or of an individual employer.'"—(*Mr. F. E. Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Mr. Clement Edwards* (*Denbigh District*) .. .. .. .. .. 1454
*The Attorney-General* (*Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.*) .. .. .. 1455
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 1456
*Lord R. Cecil* (*Marylebone, E.*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1457
*Mr. Verney* (*Buckinghamshire, N.*) .. .. .. .. .. 1457
*Viscount Castlereagh* (*Maidstone*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1458
*Mr. Cheetham* (*Stalybridge*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1459

Question put, and the Amendment with the addition of the words "or firm" agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'peaceably and.'"—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'peaceably and' stand part of the Bill."

*Sir Frederick Banbury* (*City of London*) .. .. .. .. .. 1459
*Mr. F. E. Smith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1460
*Mr. Carlile* (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) .. .. .. .. .. 1463
*Mr. Ridsdale* (*Brighton*) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1464
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1464

Question, "That the words 'peaceably and' stand part of the clause, put, and negatived."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'in a reasonable manner.'"—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Question put and negatived, "That the words 'in a reasonable manner' stand part of the clause."

*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1466
*Mr. Bowles* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1468

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'concerned in any such trade dispute.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*Sir Francis Powell* (*Wigan*) .. .. .. .. .. .. 1469
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1469
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1470

*Mr. Atherley Jones (Durham, N.W.)* .. .. .. .. .. 1472
*Mr. F. E. Smith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1474
*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1475
*Mr. Shackleton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1477
*Mr. Clement Edwards* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1477

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 50 ; Noes, 298. (Division List No. 367.)

*Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University)* .. .. .. .. .. 1481
*Viscount Castlereagh* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1483

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the words 'resides or.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'resides or' stand part of the Bill."

*The Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. Ure, Linlithgowshire)* .. .. 1485
*Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington)* .. .. .. 1485
*Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.)* .. .. .. .. 1485
*Sir Francis Powell* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1486
*Mr. Clavell Salter (Hants, Basingstoke)* .. .. .. .. .. 1486
*Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1489
*Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1490
*Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.)* .. .. .. .. .. .. 1491

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 320 ; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 368.)

*Mr. Rawlinson* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1495
*Mr. Clavell Salter* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1497

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the words 'or happens to be.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed— "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*Mr. A. J. Balfour* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1497
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1498
*Mr. F. E. Smith* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1500
*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1501
*Lord R. Cecil* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1501
*Mr. Shackleton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1501
*Mr. Bonar Law (Camberwell, Dulwich)* .. .. .. .. .. 1504
*Mr. Samuel Evans* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1505

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 317 ; Noes, 44. (Division List No. 369.)

*Nov.* 2.] *Page*

Amendments proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'of' to insert the word 'peacefully.'"

"In page 1, line 19, after the word 'of' to insert the word 'peacefully.'"

Amendments agreed to.

*Sir Frederick Banbury* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1509

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at end, to add," Provided always that nothing in this section shall exempt any person from liability for trespass."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*Sir John Walton* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1511
*Mr. Bowles* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1512

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 46 ; Noes, 305. (Division List No. 370.)

Sir JOHN WALTON moved "That the Question 'That the words of the Bill to the end of page 1, line 23, stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put. "That the Question 'That the words of the Bill to the end of page 1, line 23, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 294 ; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 371 )

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Monday next

ADJOURNMENT.

*The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorks, W.R., Pudsey)* .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1519

Motion made, and Question, "That the House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at a quarter before Five o'clock till Monday next.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOL. CLXIII.

# VOLUME CLXII.

## ERRATUM.

July 27th. Mr. BEAUCHAMP'S Speech.

In Col. 83, line 2, *for* "1906" *read* "1899."

In Col. 83, line 3, *for* "during the same period" *read* "since then."

In Col. 84, line 5, *after* "countries" *insert* "without altering the relative position."

In Col. 84, line 36, *after* "present" *insert* "they were inferior as battleships, and far superior to what was needed in a cruiser."

In Col. 84, line 43, *for* "armed" *read* "armoured."

In Col. 84, line 57, *after* "commerce" *insert* "but by the exigencies of naval warfare must be in the line of battle, and thus be drawn from commerce-destroying."

In Col. 84, line 58, *for* "armed" *read* "armoured."

In Col. 85, line 3, *for* "time" *read* "design."

In Index, Mr. BEAUCHAMP'S initial should be "E." not "H.W."

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

*FIRST SESSION* OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

---

TWELFTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

---

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 23rd October*, 1906.

### VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of George Bagot, Viscount Molesworth and Baron Phillipstown, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Duke of Rutland sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

Several Lords took the Oath.

The Lord Masham sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

Archibald Lord Bishop of Exeter was (in the usual manner) introduced.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; of trustees of Church of England schools in the diocese of Peterborough (7); teachers in schools in the diocese of Peterborough; parishioners of St. George's, Leicester; parishioners of St. Mary's, Leicester; trustees of Church of England schools at Narborough; Mowsley; inhabitants of Coalville; Tithmarsh; Caterham; Ashwell; parish of Ayston; Whitwell; Whissendene; Glooston; Stretton; Oakham; Pickworth; parish of Brooke; North Luffenham; Glaston; Empyngham; Preston; St. Cuthbert's, Durham; Edith, Weston; Greetham; Burley; Egerton; St. George's, Wigan; Market Overton; Essendine; Morcott; Seaton; Pilton; Cottesmore; Barrow; Egleton; Little Casterton and Tolethorpe; Clipsham; Tinwell; Langham; Bramston; Ridlington; Teigh; Hambleton; Wardley; Uppingham; Stoke - Dory; Manton; Exton; Byhall; Wing, Rutlandshire;

Belton; Normanton; Bisbrooke; St. Bartholomew's, Bethnal Green; St. Helens, Bishopsgate, E.C.; All Saints, Haggerston; Bolney; Bardwell, Suffolk; Barrow-on-Soar (3); and Bentley; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious instruction in schools; of inhabitants of the parishes of Worthing and District; Leicester; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).*

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.:

### COLONIES I. (ANNUAL).

No. 489. Seychelles (Report for 1905). (August 8.)

No. 490. Falkland Islands (Report for 1905). (August 10.)

No. 491. Gambia (Report for 1905). (August 16.)

No. 492. Jamaica (Report for 1904–1905). (August 22.)

No. 493. Northern Territories of the Gold Coast (Report for 1905). (August 23)

No. 494. Ceylon (Report for 1905). August 27.)

No. 495. Turks and Caicos Islands (Report for 1905). (September 18.)

No. 496. Bahamas (Report for 1905–1906). (September 19.)

No. 497. Barbados (Report for 1905–1906). (September 21.)

No. 498. Malta (Report for 1905–1906). (October 2.)

No. 499. British Central Africa Protectorate (Report for 1905–1906). (October 6.)

No 500. Surveys and Explorations of British Africa (Annual Report of the Colonial Survey Committee. First Year: to August, 1906). (October 9.)

No. 501. Grenada (Report for 1905). (October 12.)

No. 502. Straits Settlements (Report for 1905). (October 12.)

No. 503. Gibraltar (Report for 1905). (October 15.)

No. 504. Trinidad and Tobago (Report for 1905–1906). (October 19.)

### GENERAL.

II. Statement showing the total amount contributed by the colonies, dependencies, and protectorates to the upkeep of the Imperial Institute from the date of its formation to 31st March, 1906. (August 14.)

### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

I. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1905. (August 9.)

II. Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), together with Reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into. (September 4.)

China, No. I. (1906).—Correspondence relating to the Decree issued by the Chinese Government on 9th May, 1906, respecting the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. (August 10.)

### TRADE REPORTS—I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3685. Ecuador. (August 10.)

No. 3686. Guatemala.

No. 3687. China (Kiungchow). (August 14.)

No. 3688. Russia (Riga.)

No. 3689. Argentine Republic (Finances for 1905 and part of 1906).

No. 3690. China (Ningpo).

No. 3691. China (Wenchow).

No. 3692. China (Pakhoi).

No. 3693. Mexico (Mexican Budget for 1906–1907). (August 16.)

No. 3694. Germany (Dantzig).

No. 3695. Siam (Chiengmai).

No. 3696. Austria-Hungary. (August 17.)

No. 3697. Morocco (Trade of the Consular District of Dar-al-Baida for 1905). (August 22.)

No. 3698. Chile (Trade for 1905).

No. 3699. Turkey (Trade of Damascus for 1905). (August 23.)

No. 3700. Japan (Trade of Nagasaki for 1905).

No. 3701. China (Trade of Shasi for 1905. (August 25.)

No. 3702. Persia (Report for 1905 on the Trade of Bunder Abbas and Lingah). (August 28.)

No. 3703. Italy (Report for 1905 on the Trade of Leghorn).

No. 3704. Portugal (Trade of Angola for 1905).

No. 3705. Turkey (Trade of Crete for 1905). (August 29.)

No. 3706. Japan (Trade of Consular District of Tainan (South Formosa) for 1905). (September 1.)

No. 3707. France (Trade of French Indo-China.)

No. 3708. China (Trade of Changsha). (September 6.)

No. 3709. Japan (Yokohama).

No. 3710. China (Foochow).

No. 3711. China (Mengtzu).

No. 3712. France (Algeria). (September 8.)

No. 3713. Brazil (Trade for 1905).

No. 2714. China (Trade of Kiukiang for 1905). (September 11.)

No. 3715. Borneo (Trade of British North Borneo for 1905).

No. 3716. Zanzibar (Trade of Pemba for 1905). (September 14.)

No. 3717. Siam (Trade of Bangkok for 1905). (September 19.)

No. 3718. Italy (Trade of Venice for 1905–1906). (September 21.)

No. 3719. Japan (Trade of Kobe for 1005). (September 22.)

No. 3720. Belgium (Trade of Belgium for 1905 and the first half of 1906). (September 26).

No. 3721. Chinde (Trade for 1905.) (October 6).

No. 3722. Turkey (Trade for the Consular District of Smyrna for 1905).

No. 3723. Germany (Trade and Agriculture of Bavaria for 1905 and part of 1906). (October 10).

### II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 654. Cotton Culture in Corea. (September 11).

### INDIA.

I. (Railways).—Administration Report on the railways in India, for the calendar year 1905, by the Railway Board (August 10).

II. (Sanitary Measures).—Report on sanitary measures in India in 1904–1905. Vol. XXXVIII. (September 5).

III. (Statistical Abstract).—Statistical abstract relating to British India from 1895–1896 to 1904–1905. Fortieth Number. (September 13).

### AGRICULTURE STATISTICS (IRELAND).

I. Return of prices of crops, live stock, and other Irish agricultural products for the year 1905. (August 14).

II. Abstracts showing the acreage under crops and the number of live stock in each county and province of Ireland, 1905–1906. (August 28).

III. Agricultural statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1905. (September 19).

### REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

I. (Funds Committee).—Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the provision of funds for reformatory and industrial schools.

Vol. I. Report and Appendices.

Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence. (August 16).

II. (Ireland).—Forty-fourth Report of the Inspector, for the year 1905. (August 23).

III. (Great Britain).—Forty-ninth Report, for the year 1905, of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial

Schools. Part II.—General Report and Appendices III. to XI. (September 17).

### TREATY SERIES.

No. 10. (1906).—Agreement between the United Kingdom and Chile for the Exchange of Money Orders; signed at London, 30th July, 1906. (August 17).

No. 11. (1906).—Treaty between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua with regard to the Mosquito Territory; signed at Managua, 19th April, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906).

No. 12. (1906).—Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua; signed at Managua, 28th July, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906).

No. 13. (1906).—Convention between the United Kingdom and Japan respecting Commercial Relations between Canada and Japan; signed at Tokio, 31st January, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at Tokio, 12th July, 1906).

No. 14. (1906).—Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting the delimitation of the Frontier between the British and French Possessions to the East of the Niger; signed at London, 29th May, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged in London, 29th August, 1906.) (September 13).

### CANADA—WEST INDIES.

Agreements between the Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black for a steamship service between Canada and the West Indies. (August 21).

### CROFTER COLONISATION.

Fifteenth Report of His Majesty's Commissioners appointed to carry out a scheme of colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. (August 24).

### WEST INDIES.

Contract between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for Inter-Colonial steamship services between certain Colonies in the West Indies. (August 25).

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Statistics of proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1905. (September 3).

### IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

I. Report of the Estates Commissioners, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, and for the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906. (September 3).

II. Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of March, 1906. (September 5).

### INEBRIATE RETREATS (IRELAND).

Second Report (with appendices) of the inspector for Ireland, for the year 1905. (September 4).

### EGYPT NO. 4 (1906).

Further paper respecting the attack on British officers at Denshawai (in continuation of Egypt No. 3 (1906). (September 5).

### NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Annual Repopt of the Commissioners, for the year 1905. (September 6).

### CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND).

Report of the Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1906. (September 10).

### PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Thirty-eighth Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Records, for the year 1905. (September 10).

### QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.

Annual Report of the President, for the year 1905-1906. (September 11).

### LUNACY (IRELAND).

Fifty-fifth Report of the Inspectors of Lunatics in Ireland, for the year 1905. (September 11).

### NORTH SEA FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS.

Report of the British Delegates attending the meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at Amsterdam in 1906, and reports relating thereto (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2966], 1906). (September 12).

### TRISTAN-DA-CUNHA.

Further correspondence relating to the Island of Tristan-da-Cunha (in continuation of [Cd. 1600], June, 1903). (September 13).

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

I. (Factory, &c., Railings and Sidings, &c.)—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Chester Jones, Esquire, on the draft regulations for locomotives and waggons on lines and sidings in or in connection with factories, workshops, &c.

II. (Manufacture of Cotton, Safeguards)—Report by H. S. Richmond, Esq., one of His Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories, on safeguards for the prevention of accidents in the manufacture of cotton. (September 15).

### PRISONS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, with appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1906. (September 17).

### MINES AND QUARRIES.

I. (Disaster at Courrières Mine, France.)—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by H. Cunynghame, Esq., C.B., and W. N. Atkinson, Esq., on the mining disaster at Courrières, Pas de Calais, France, on 10th March, 1906. (September 18).

II. (General Report and Statistics for 1905 : Part II. Labour).—General report and statistics relating to persons employed and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, and to the enforcement of the Mines and Quaries Acts. (October 1.)

III. (General Report and Statistics for 1905 : Part III. Output).—General Report and Statistics relating to the output and value of the minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the metals produced, and the exports and imports of minerals. (October 10.)

### WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR (BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR DEPARTMENT).

Report on changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1905, with comparative statistics for 1896 – 1904. (September 18.)

### BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION).

Annual Report of proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899 ; the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894 ; the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Acts, 1893 ; and the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889 (section 2, subsection 3), for the year 1905. (September 22.)

### TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN (ROYAL COMMISSION).

First Report of the Commissioners; with Appendix (Statements and Returns.) (September 22.)

### MALTA.

Despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd. 3024]). (September 22.)

### EXPLOSIVES.

I. (Fire at Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending the fire which occurred at the Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall, on 20th April, 1906. (September 25.)

II. (Explosion at Sedgwick, Westmorland).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred at the factory of the Sedgwick Gunpowder Co., Ltd., at Sedgwick, Westmorland, on the 23rd June, 1906. (October 2.)

### IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

I. (Proceedings).—Return for the months of March, April, May, and June, 1906. (September 28.)

II. (Proceedings).—Return for the month of July, 1906. (October 5.)

III. Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of April, 1906. (October 15.)

### POLICE (METROPOLIS).

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, for the year 1905. (October 1.)

### BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. List of Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales on 1st January, 1906. (October 3.)

II. Regulations relating to the Royal College of Science, with which is incorporated the Royal School of Mines and the Royal College of Art, and to museums under the Board of Education (from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907.) (October 13.)

III. Short list of books, pamphlets, and papers dealing with the subject of religious instruction in schools. (October 18.)

### CANALS AND WATERWAYS (ROYAL COMMISSION.)

First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the canals and on inland navigations of the United Kingdom; with minutes of evidence and appendices thereto, and indices. (October 3.)

### NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

I. Appendix, Section I., to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905.

II. Appendix, Section III., to the Annual Report of the Commissioners, for the year 1905. (October 4.)

### FISHERIES (IRELAND).

Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the sea and inland fisheries of Ireland, for 1905. Part I. General Report. (October 5.)

### STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Reports on the Federated Malay States for 1905. (For Reports for 1904 see [Cd. 2777.], November, 1905). (October 5.)

### CUSTOMS.

Customs Tariffs of the United Kingdom from 1897–1898 to 1906–1907 (in continuation of [Cd. 8706], 1897). (October 9.)

### PETERHEAD HARBOUR.

Reports respecting Peterhead Harbour Works (in continuation of [Cd. 2792], (October 9.)

### FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part III., Scientific Investigations. (October 9.)

### MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (SCOTLAND).

Fiftieth detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland of marriages, births, and deaths in Scotland (abstracts of 1904). (October 9.)

### POOR LAW REFORM COMMISSION (IRELAND).

I. Report of the Vice-Regal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland.

II. Appendix to Report.

III. Minutes of Evidence. (October 13.)

### FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES.

Return of the rates of import duty levied in European countries, Egypt, the United States, Mexico, Japan, China, and Persia, upon the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom. (October 13.)

### AUSTRALIA.

Address to the King on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland, and the reply thereto. (October 15.)

### SECONDARY EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report for the year 1906, by J. Struthers, Esq., C.B., LL.D. (October 16.)

### POST OFFICE.

Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Crete for the exchange of money orders. (October 17.)

### RAILWAY SIGNALMEN (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Return in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of instances in which eight-hour and ten-hour signalmen were on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than their booked hours during the month of February, 1906. (October 17.)

### ARMY.

Approximate estimate of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903, for 1906–1907. (October 18.)

### CYPRUS.

Annual Report for 1905 - 1906. (October 19.)

### ALIENS ACT, 1905.

Return of alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ended 30th September, 1906, together with the number of expulsion orders made during that period requiring aliens to leave the United Kidgdom. (October 19.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

---

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION).

Annual Report for the year 1905–1906.

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887. (EVICTION NOTICES.)

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906.

### HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Report on Manuscripts in various Collections. Vol. IV.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the table.

### LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Additional rules and regulations for the government of the prisons in the Leeward Islands.

### VICTORIA (THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1906.)

To abolish the separate representation in Parliament of public officers and railway officers.

### INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).

Return of all loans raised in England under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament, chargeable on the revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 30th September, 1906, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, and the date of the termination of each loan, the debt incurred during the half-year, the moneys raised thereby during the half-year, the loans paid off or discharged during the half-year, and the loans outstanding at the close of the half-year, stating, so far as the public convenience will allow, the purpose or service for which moneys have been raised during the half-year.

### FORESHORES.

Treasury minute, dated 4th August, 1906, directing the application of moneys received by the Board of Trade in the year ended 31st March, 1906, in respect of the rights and interests of the Crown in the foreshores of the United Kingdom.

### POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1906.)

No. 651. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 5.) Warrant, 1906, dated 28th August, 1906.

No. 682. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant, 1906, dated 8th September, 1906.

No. 704. (Inland Post).—The Inland Post Amendment (No. 7) Warrant, 1906, dated 12th September, 1906.

No. 730. (Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post).—The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant, 1906, dated 26th September, 1906.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

I. Orders made by the councils of the following county, county boroughs, boroughs, cities and urban district councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective districts.

1. County of Gloucester, within the parishes of Kingswood and Mangotsfield.
2. County borough of Newport.
3. County borough of Huddersfield.
4. Borough of Middleton.
5. Borough of Smethwick.
6. Borough of Bridlington.
7. Borough of Neath.
8. City of Bradford.
9. City of Cardiff, within the Grangetown ward of the city.
10. Urban district of Aberdare.
11. Urban district of Willesden.
12. Urban district of Hindley.
13. Urban district of Mountain Ash.

II. Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland, providing for the early closing of certain classes of shops within the following burghs—

1. Arbroath.
2. Dundee (2 orders).
3. Fort William.
4. Helensburgh.
5. Johnstone.
6. Grangemouth.
7. Falkirk.
8. Renfrew.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

(Employment: Certificate of Fitness).—Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 66 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the provisions as to certificates of fitness to certain classes of workshops.

(Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries).—Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for use of locomotives and waggons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act.

### POLLING DISTRICTS.

Orders made by the county council of the county of Surrey, sub-dividing a polling district in Kingston Parliamentary division.

County council of the county of Surrey, constituting certain polling districts within the county.

County council of the county of Southampton, altering certain polling districts in the Fareham Parliamentary division.

County council of the county of Lancaster, re-dividing the Middleton Parliamentary division into polling districts.

County council of the county of Durham, altering the name of the Pit Hill polling place to Beamish polling place.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted by His Majesty to Harriet Measham, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Joseph Symms, under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853 to 1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Ada Booth, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E.

Licence granted by His Majesty to Edith Dady, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E.

### SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury minute, dated 31st August, 1906, declaring that William Sewell, lad, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Treasury minute, dated 12th October, 1906, granting a retired allowance to Albert Bottomley, senior clerk, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887.

Treasury minute, dated 13th August, 1906, declaring that David Clements, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

### NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883, (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Treasury warrant, dated 31st August, 1906, cancelling surplus consols purchased on account of the terminable annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

### COUNTY COURTS, ENGLAND (FEES).

Treasury order, dated 2nd August, 1906, amending the order of 30th December, 1903, regulating court fees in county courts.

### SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Account of the receipts and expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the funds of suitors of the court in the year ended 28th February 1906; also account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

### LOAN SOCIETIES.

Abstract of Accounts of loan societies in England and Wales furnished to the central office for the Registry of Friendly Societies, for the year ended 31st December, 1904.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 28th February, 1906, and sealed on the 16th March, 1906, altering Statute XIII., 1, of the Statutes of the college.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 15th June, 1906, and sealed on the same day, altering Statute II., 21, and Statute IX., 3, respectively, of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of Merton College, Oxford, on the 3rd March, 1906, and sealed on the 6th March, 1906, altering Statute V., 3 (b), of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, on the 4th May, 1906, and sealed on the 7th June, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 8, and Statute XVI., Clause 3, of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Governing Body of All Souls' College, Oxford, on the 24th February, 1906, and sealed on the 31st March, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 7, of the Statutes of the college.

Statute made by the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge, and sealed on the 23rd March, 1906, altering Statute A., Chapter II., Degrees, Section 19, Affiliated Colleges, of the Statutes of the university.

Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Cambridge, on the 9th February, 1906, and sealed on the same day, repealing Statute XXXIV. of the Statutes of the college, and substituting therefor an amended Statute XXXIV.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and to be printed. (No. 209.)

### MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.

Accounts of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, for the year ended 1st July, 1906. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### CEYLON.

Correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Governor of Ceylon on the subject of irrigation works in that island. Laid before the House (pursuant to Address of 30th July last), and to be printed. (No. 210.)

### MARRIAGE WITH FOREIGNERS BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

---

## EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I beg to ask the noble Marquess opposite a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government, in consequence of their decision to appeal against the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the case of "The King *v.* West Riding County Council," to modify in any way the arrangement under which the clauses of the Education Bill are to be taken into consideration on Monday, the 29th inst., and subsequent days.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, it is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to make any alteration in the arrangement they have proposed to your Lordships' House for proceeding with this Bill. The appeal has been presented on purely administrative grounds. It has been found that the decision of the Court of Appeal, if it should ultimately be made good, would involve many difficulties of a serious kind affecting over 300 local authorities in various parts of the country. But, as the Bill which your Lordships are about to discuss will not come into operation until the beginning of 1908, there will be a period of more than a year in which the law would be in a state of uncertainty.

In these circumstances His Majesty's Government have thought it fit to make an appeal to your Lordships' House, as the supreme judicial tribunal, against the judgment given in the Court below. But it does not appear to us that the question raised by the decision of the Court very materially affects the consideration of the Bill which is now before your Lordships' House. If that Bill should pass, in whatever form, it will supersede altogether any judgment which has been given by your Lordships' House in its judicial capacity. In these circumstances, subject, of course, to what your Lordships may choose to do, the Government are ready, and it is our intention, to proceed with the Bill on Thursday as arranged.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, perhaps it would be for the convenience of the Government and of your Lordships that I should state now that I do not propose to proceed with the Instruction which stands in my name for Thursday next, namely—

> "On the Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee being read, to move 'That it be an instruction to the Committee to amend the Education (England and Wales) Bill so as to provide for Christian religious teaching each day in all elementary schools for those children whose parents desire such religious instruction within school hours, and not secular instruction only.'"

I am given to understand that there are a number of your Lordships who desire to discuss parts of the Bill dealing with administration which were not discussed on the Second Reading; and as I can perfectly well bring forward the points I desire to raise on one of the first Amendments to Clause 1 I shall not move my Instruction.

---

## PUBLIC SLAUGHTER HOUSES BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE explained that the object of his Amendment to this clause was to make it quite clear that all slaughter houses when closed should be entitled to compensation.

Amendment moved—

> "In Clause 3, page 2, line 6, after the word 'any,' to insert the words 'registered or.'"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clauses agreed to, and Bill reported, as amended, to the House.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. [No. 211.]

---

## SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, this is a Bill to amend the law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors in Ireland on Saturdays and Sundays, and for other purposes connected therewith. For thirty years those in favour of temperance have been urging the adoption of this measure. Two Royal Commissions have approved the Bill, and it has passed the House of

Commons on at least two occasions. I believe it has also passed this House.

The Bill as it now stands passed the House of Commons by very large majorities, and when we consider that with a population of 4,250,000 in Ireland, the sum of from £10,000,000 to £12,000,000 is annually spent on drink, I am sure that any legislation which will tend to mitigate that evil will be welcomed. This is only a small measure, but it is an excellent one. By Clause 1 the public-houses in the large towns which are exempted in the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act of 1878, are compelled to close at 5 p.m. on Sunday instead of 7 p.m.; and by Clause 2 the hour of closing of public-houses on Saturday is 10 p.m. in cities and towns where the population exceeds 5,000, and 9 p.m. in all other towns and places in Ireland. I believe that in Scotland, where Saturday early closing is in force, it has been accompanied by the best possible results, and there is no reason why public-houses in Ireland should be kept open on Saturdays until 11 p.m.

I now come to what is called the *bonâ fide* traveller clause, which has created a great deal of controversy in the other House. By this clause a person residing or lodging within the metropolitan police district of Dublin, or any of the cities of Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Belfast, shall not be deemed to be a *bona fide* traveller unless the place where he lodged during the preceding night is at least five miles distant from the place where he demands to be supplied with liquor. Throughout the rest of Ireland the limit will remain what it is now—namely, three miles. I am well aware that this is a question which has been very much debated, and should an Amendment be moved in Committee upon it, I can only say that I have an entirely open mind on the matter. When the Bill came down from Grand Committee in the other House the limit was six miles all over Ireland, but at the last moment, on a hot night in July, when there was little time to deal with the matter, a compromise was effected and the limit reduced to five miles for the cities I have named, and three miles for other parts of the country.

I cannot pledge myself to accept any Amendment, but I repeat that I have an open mind on the matter. A great section of the trade as well as the temperance party are desirous that the Bill should pass, and, as a compromise has been arrived at, I hope the Bill will become law without further delay, and that no Amendment will be brought forward, lest its passing should imperil the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2$^{a}$."—(*The Earl of Mayo.*)

LORD CLONBROCK: My Lords, I rise to support what my noble friend has said in moving the Second Reading of this Bill. I think the Bill is a step in the right direction, and it ought to be welcomed as such. But it is very much to be deplored that the Bill does not go considerably further, that it does not still retain the shape in which it was originally introduced into the House of Commons, or even in which it passed Grand Committee in that House.

My noble friend has alluded to the two main points in the Bill—the earlier closing of public-houses on Saturday night, and the provision with regard to *bona fide* travellers. In the Bill as it was originally introduced the hour of closing on Saturday was fixed at nine o'clock everywhere. That was in accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Peel, which has been supported by all the authorities in favour of temperance in Ireland. A very large and representative conference met this year in Dublin, of which I had the honour of being chairman. It included the bishops of both churches in Ireland and a large number of representative men. We were received by the Lord-Lieutenant and handed His Excellency a memorial, which he was pleased to receive, containing these recommendations, among others, that the hour of closing should be nine o'clock everywhere on Saturday, and that the *bona fide* traveller limit should be extended to seven miles.

The Bill came to the House of Commons in this form, but before it went to Grand Committee a compromise was effected by which the hours of closing on Saturday were left as they now stand in the Bill—ten o'clock in towns of over 5,000 inhabitants and nine o'clock in other districts, and the *bona fide* traveller limit, which now stands at three miles, was increased to six miles. After the Bill passed the Committee, some strong influences were apparently brought to bear, with the result that the *bona fide* traveller limit was altered to five miles in Dublin and certain other cities in Ireland, and left at three miles for the rest of the country. Everyone who has considered the matter must admit that it is absurd that a man who has travelled three miles should become a *bona fide* traveller. I think it is very much to be regretted that this compromise was effected, and that over the greater part of Ireland the limit still remains at three miles. It is a matter of complaint among the clergy that members of their congregation who live outside the three-mile limit come in to attend Mass and then go to the public house.

It is my intention to propose an Amendment, making the *bona fide* traveller limit six miles. I should also like to change the hour of closing everywhere to nine o'clock on Saturday, for it is in the towns of over 5,000 inhabitants that working-men mostly remain in public-houses spending their wages, very much to the detriment of their wives and families. I do not, however, wish to do anything to imperil the passing of the Bill. That there is a rather lukewarm feeling in the other House on the subject of temperance is shown by the fact that, though the Bill was passed by a large majority on Second Reading, these compromises were effected later on.

THE EARL OF MEATH: My Lords, I hope your Lordships will pass this Bill as introduced by the noble Earl. Personally I agree with Lord Clonbrock, and should have desired to see the Bill brought into this House as it was originally introduced into the House of Commons. Your Lordships are all aware that temperance legislation has been terribly handicapped in the past, owing to the fact that the most extreme people on either side could not come to a compromise. A compromise has now been arrived at in the case of Ireland; and I sincerely hope that England, Scotland, and Wales will not prevent the Emerald Isle obtaining this most beneficent measure.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, the provisions of this Bill have been clearly outlined by the noble Earl opposite. It only remains for me to say that it has the good wishes and sympathy of the Government of Ireland, and that the Chief Secretary spoke in its favour in another place and voted for it. With regard to what Lord Clonbrock has said in reference to the *bona fide* traveller clause, I would emphasise what has fallen from the noble Earl, Lord Meath, that this particular clause is the result of a compromise. It is owing to that compromise that the Bill has reached this House, and it is doubtful whether it would have come up here but for that compromise. If the noble Lord intends to press his Amendment, I hope he will consider whether in doing so he may not tear up this compromise and imperil the progress of the Bill. His Majesty's Government are in favour of the measure, and would be glad to see it passed.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I apprehend that none of your Lordships would desire to offer the slightest opposition to the Second Reading of this Bill, which I hope will pass with general consent. I quite appreciate the wisdom of the cautious words which have been used as to the introduction of Amendments imperilling the Bill. It came to your Lordships, as I understand, in its present shape as the result of a keenly-arranged compromise, and, of course, if it were sent back with any variation of those terms, except with general consent, the chances of the Bill passing into law would be greatly impaired. But I gathered from Lord Clonbrock that the Amendment he indicates would have the approval of those who are interested in the passing of this Bill, and would be just as much the result of a compromise as is the Bill in its present shape. I hope your Lordships will pass the Second Reading to-day and be extremely cautious in dealing with the next stage of the Bill.

On Question, Bill read $2^a$, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

---

## SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON, who had given notice to move "That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered," said: My Lords, I understood before the House separated for the holidays that there was a general feeling that your Lordships would prefer to sit on Wednesdays and not on Fridays during the remaining period of the session. Believing that such an arrangement would be likely to meet the wishes of noble Lords on both sides of the House, I gave notice of the Motion which stands in my name, and which, unless your Lordships object to it, I will now move—with this addition—that, after the words "this House," the words "except for judicial business" be inserted. The Lord Chancellor informs me that there may be occasions when it would be desirable that the House should meet for judicial business on a Friday.

Moved, "That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House, except for judicial business, shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Ordered, That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House, except for judicial business, shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered.

## HOUSE OF LORDS OFFICES.

Order of the Day read for the further consideration of the Third Report from the Select Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, it will be in the recollection of your Lordships that just before the adjournment of the House this Report was considered, and that, in deference to the views of noble Lords opposite, I consented to postpone that part of it which dealt with the office of Black Rod. A Select Committee of your Lordships' House, appointed in the last Session of Parliament, report that in their opinion the House had not power to remove from the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod those appointments of doorkeepers and messengers which at an earlier period it was believed were entirely under the control of this House. In those circumstances they recommend your Lordships to reverse the decision which you arrived at in 1890, and that the appointments of doorkeepers and messengers should in future be in the gift of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. I therefore ask your Lordships to agree to the Report of the Committee.

Moved, "That the Report be now further considered."

On Question, Motion agreed to, and the remainder of the said Report agreed to.

## IMPORTATION OF HORSES INTO IRELAND.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I rise to draw the attention of His Majesty's Government to the Order of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, dated 29th May, 1906, concerning the importation of horses, asses, and mules; and to ask for information thereon.

The Order was made in consequence of the prevalence of glanders in England. A great many of us feel that it is quite right that the ordinary importation of horses, asses, and mules should be restricted, but we should like to see thoroughbred brood mares exempted from the Order. This disease exists chiefly in two large towns—London and Glasgow—and your Lordships, of course, know that thoroughbred mares are not kept in towns and are therefore not likely to contract the disease. There is in this Order an exemption applying to horses, asses, and mules belonging to the Army. Our experience in this matter in Ireland is an unfortunate one, for we had that terrible disease, epizootic lymphangitis, introduced into Ireland by the Army horses. We take exception to Army horses being exempted when we are compelled, in getting horses from England, to go before a magistrate, sign a declaration that the horse is perfectly healthy, and pay a veterinary surgeon a guinea for a certificate that the animal is free from disease. The large breeders and those who wish to send thoroughbred mares to sires in Ireland resent this vexatious provision, and there is the danger that in consequence the mares will not be sent to sires in Ireland.

During the last five or six years London has contributed 75 per cent. of the reported cases of glanders in Great Britain. It is distinctly a metropolitan disease, and if it were stamped out in London and the great towns it would most likely disappear altogether. The obstacle in the way of effective measures is the want of sufficient money to compensate the owners of horses suffering from glanders and to induce them to submit their horses to the malin test. Deputations have waited upon successive Presidents of the Board of Agriculture urging them to deal with this question, and the County Council of London have spent large sums of money upon it. But the money that has been forthcoming is not sufficient.

In the case of pluro-pneumonia, for many years futile attempts were made to stamp it out, but in 1890 the Pluro-Pneumonia Act was passed. Animals suffering from the disease were slaughtered, and three-fourths of their value was given for all animals that had even been in contact with diseased beasts. Thus the disease was exterminated; and if pluro-pneumonia could be entirely wiped out in this way it is only reasonable to suppose that, were sufficient money forthcoming to enable proper precautions to be taken, the country could be rendered free from this very dangerous disease. I hope the noble Lord who will reply on behalf of His Majesty's Government will hold out some hope that pressure will be brought to bear upon the Treasury to provide the Department of Agriculture with sufficient money to deal with this horrible disease which attacks horses in large towns. I would also ask him whether he can hold out some hope that thoroughbred mares, which are not kept in towns, will be exempted from the Order.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, the noble Lord has dwelt on what is in Ireland a very important subject—namely, horsebreeding. Most of your Lordships will agree as to the great importance of horsebreeding to Ireland, both as regards quality and quantity. The figures I have in my hand show that there are approximately 900,000 horses in Ireland to-day; that the value of the export trade in these horses probably reaches £1,000,000 annually; that 30,700 horses were exported and 6,000 horses imported in one year; and that 17,023 asses were exported and only seventy-eight imported. Naturally, it is the duty of the Government to safeguard horsebreeding in Ireland. The fact that thirty cases of glanders were reported to the Department of Agriculture last year, while the annual average of the previous ten years had been seven, showed the necessity for some steps being taken. The Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland examined into the cause, and came to the conclusion that the increase was due to the importation of horses of an inferior and partly worn-out class, gathered, many of them, from infected districts. Owing to the dispersion of tramway and omnibus studs in England numbers of these horses were sent over to Ireland and sold at low prices to the farmers there. This contributed to an increase of glanders, and we were therefore obliged to take steps to have imported animals examined by veterinary surgeons on entering the country.

Your Lordships know what a terrible disease glanders is, and how very difficult it is to stamp out when once it becomes prevalent. I had some experience of it myself in the Remount Department in South Africa, and I know how much it is to be dreaded by all owners of horses. No doubt it is possible that under the Regulations which have been drawn up by the Department of Agriculture certain cases of hardship may arise, but I would point out that to make the exceptions asked for by the noble Earl on behalf of thoroughbred stock would lead to the advance of other claims and give rise to difficulties and complaints. The Department of Agriculture has no jurisdiction over Army horses. I hope I have said enough to show that the Department of Agriculture has only drawn up prudent and careful regulations to prevent the spread of this disease in Ireland.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, the noble Earl opposite and my noble friend behind me have explained this matter so well that there is very little for me to say. But, with regard to the suggestion of the noble Earl as to the exemption of thoroughbred stock, I would only say that I must reserve my judgment on that point until I can consider the recommendations that may emanate from a conference among persons engaged in the horsebreeding industry. I will not fail to bring the noble Lord's suggestion before that conference, and he can be certain that it will receive full consideration.

The noble Earl is quite right in his statement that glanders exists principally in London and Glasgow, and he proceeded to ask why His Majesty's Government could not take the matter at once in hand and stamp out the disease in the same way as other cattle diseases have been stamped out in the past. I hope the noble Earl will not think me discourteous if I call his attention to the fact that the position of the finances of the country is very different now from that existing at the time to which the noble Earl alluded, and I must plead that this is not entirely the fault of those who sit on this side of the House. Noble Lords opposite will, I think, be willing to share the responsibility. Up to six years ago very little was known of this disease in England. In the last six years, however, it has increased very considerably, but during the whole of that time noble Lords opposite did very little in providing money to assist in stamping it out.

If I could secure £25,000 a year for three years I am assured by the experts that the Board of Agriculture would be perfectly able to stamp out this dread disease, which is dangerous not only to horses but to human beings as well. As regards the action taken in Ireland we have no reason to complain. Something like 27,000 horses are exported annually from Ireland into England. They also have a magnificent foreign trade. There is no such thing as farcy or glanders existing in Ireland, and Ireland has its great foreign trade, of which naturally it is very jealous, simply because it has a clean bill of health. I can assure the noble Earl that I am doing all I can to soften the heart of the Treasury, but until money is forthcoming the Board cannot in justice and in equity contest the right of the Irish Department to protect the health of Irish cattle.

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA.

*LORD AMPTHILL: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether they are yet in a position to make a statement concerning the suggested extension of the representative element and of the limits of discussion in the Legislative Council of the Government of India, to which the Secretary of State referred in his speech of the 20th July,† and for the consideration of which purpose a Committee was appointed by the Viceroy.

I shall only say a very few words in putting this Question to His Majesty's Government, for nothing could be further from my intention than to provoke a discussion which would certainly be premature at the present time, and might possibly be inconvenient. My object is merely to elicit information on a subject which is of the greatest possible interest, not only to those who have had to do with India but also to the public at large, for I think your Lordships will agree with me that the growing popular interest in Indian affairs is a very striking and significant feature of the present day.

My inquiry is made in a sympathetic spirit, for, so far as I understand the objects which the Government of India and the Secretary of State have in view, I am in entire accord with them. It is my firm opinion that the time has come when some decided step should be taken to meet the hopes and aspirations which we ourselves have encouraged among the educated classes of India, to develop by the only possible means—that is to say, by an increased show of confidence—that political capacity which we expect them to show, and to give an earnest of pledges direct and implied which have been made by the British Government. I trust that I shall find myself in agreement with the methods by which it may eventually be proposed to attain those objects. I have only to add that I hope that if His Majesty's Government are not able to reply to my Question at the present time they will at any rate undertake to give the information to Parliament as soon as it is available.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, the Answer which I have to give to the noble Lord is in the negative. A Committee was appointed by the Governor-General in August last, and that Committee is still sitting. The Secretary of State, therefore, is not yet in a position to make any statement concerning the proposals which that Committee may make. Those proposals will have to be considered by the Governor-General in Council and by the Secretary of State in Council before any statement can be made.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxi., 588.

*LORD AMPTHILL: May I ask the noble Earl whether he will give an undertaking that the information will be presented as soon as it is available?

[No Answer was returned].

---

## EDUCATION BILL EXPENDITURE.

LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, I rise to ask the Lord President of the Council what will be the additional expenditure thrown upon the rates and taxes by the Education Bill; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a Return showing how the amount was arrived at, so that we may be able to consider whether it is possible to introduce any Amendments by which it may be reduced. Our rates and taxes are so high that it is very undesirable to impose any additional burdens on the nation which can possibly be avoided.

Certain members of the Government have during the recess been threatening your Lordships with I know not what terrible punishment if any Amendments of importance should be introduced. In their judgment the Bill comes to us with the moral support of a great majority at its back. On the contrary, though no doubt the Second Reading was carried by a great majority in the House of Commons, there seems no evidence of enthusiasm in the country, and if it were referred, in its present form, to a referendum vote many doubt whether it would be carried. The Liberal Publication Department, in their Report on the result of the last election, tell us that—

> "On a total poll of nearly 6,000,000, the Liberal and Labour majority in votes is 837,000, or (excluding Ireland) 637,000. If the Government only held as many seats as this vote majority entitled it to proportionately, their seat majority would be ninety-four. As a fact it is 354."

That is to say, 260 more than they are entitled to. They should, indeed, as it seems to me, have taken the opposed seats only, and in that case the number of votes in the House of Commons which they enjoy would come out at about 120 more than they are entitled to from the votes given in the country. There were a few candidates who did not belong to either Party, but not enough to make any serious difference. These 120 votes count, of course, for 240 on a division. The Second Reading of the Bill was carried by 206, so that if the balance of parties in the House of Commons had corresponded to the votes in the country, even according to my more moderate estimates, the Bill would have been thrown out by over thirty votes.

It is evident, therefore, that the Bill comes with the support of the House of Commons, but not of the Nation, and if it be possible by any Amendment to reduce the expense which the Bill will throw upon the rates and taxes, there is every reason to believe that your Lordships will be acting in accordance with the wishes and would have the support of the country. In order that we may know what is the additional burden which the Bill would impose on the country, I beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, in reply to the Question placed on the Paper by the noble Lord opposite I have to say that the extra charge thrown on the taxes under the Bill is the sum of £1,000,000 provided by Clause 12, added to the expenses of the Commission formed under Clause 9 and 10 of the Bill. As regards the expenditure to be thrown upon the rates, that may come under three heads; in the first place, an additional burden may, and no doubt will, be thrown on the rates in respect of the structural repairs of the voluntary schools which are taken over; in the second place, in respect of the sums paid by way of rent or otherwise on the taking over of the schools; and, in the third place, in the shape of new annual charges for interest and sinking fund in cases where new council schools have to be built in the place of existing voluntary schools. I think the noble Lord must admit that until we have had some experience of what arrangements are made under the Bill—arrangements, I mean, made between local authorities and the owners and trustees of schools—it is impossible to say to what sums these additional charges will amount. To do that, you would have to look into the minds of many thousands of people under conditions for which no certain *data* exists. All that we can say is that in naming this sum of £1,000,000—named, of course, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Budget—we considered that these charges were sufficiently provided for.

I understand from the form of the noble Lord's Question that he is afraid there may be some extravagance on the part of local authorities—a subject on which I know he feels very strongly—under the provisions of this Bill, and it may be as well to remind him what the principles are on which the distribution of the new grant will be framed. When the new grant is distributed, regard will be had, in the first place, to the actual increase of local burdens consequent upon the passing of the Bill, and, in the second place, to the amount of the educational burden upon the area. As I have already stated, it is obviously impossible, for the reasons which I have given, to lay down any detailed scheme for the distribution of the grant at this moment; but next year the Government hope to introduce a Bill which will amalgamate all the existing grants for elementary education with the £1,000,000 provided in the Bill and distribute the money on the principles I have indicated. Following a practice not infrequent in this House, of embroidering Questions on the Paper, if I may say so respectfully, with observations on larger Questions, the noble Lord has touched on much deeper issues than those one would have expected from the Notice on the Paper would have been raised. With them, it would be impossible, and, I think, improper, to deal now.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, the Question put by Lord Avebury is of an extremely useful character, and it has elicited information as to the future proposals of the Government with regard to this expenditure. I remember stating, when the Education Bill was being discussed, that I was at a loss to know how the sum of £1,000,000 had been arrived at, and that I had come to the conclusion that in all probabality it was fixed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because he had no more money to spare. I hope that when we deal with this subject in Committee we shall hear from the noble Earl some details as to how the amount was arrived at. I did not gather that it was the result of any calculation of the number of schools or the number of children. This is a very important matter, and other questions arise out of it.

LORD AVEBURY: I did not understand, from the Answer of the noble Earl, whether His Majesty's Government feel that they are not in a position to state what the additional expenditure involved in the Bill is, or whether they consider it will be covered by the £1,000,000. I did not quite hear what the noble Earl said on that point.

LORD WENLOCK: I should also like to ask the noble Earl whether, if the £1,000,000 which comes out of Imperial taxation is found not to be sufficient to meet the expenses involved under the Bill, the extra expenditure will fall on the rates.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I hoped I had explained, in reply to the noble Lord's Question, that it is impossible to state until we know what arrangements are made under the Bill what the actual expenditure in any given case will be. The noble Marquess is perfectly right in concluding that the sum of £1,000,000 was not arrived at with reference to the possible outlay of any particular authority on any given schools in any given area. My noble friend Lord Wenlock will see that it would be obviously improper and utterly extravagant to promise any local authority that it would be reimbursed from the Exchequer for any sum which it chose to expend under the provisions of this Bill. All that we say is that in distributing this £1,000,000, we shall have regard to the extra charge placed on the local authority by the Bill, and also regard to the actual sum expended for educational purposes in the area.

LORD WENLOCK: I am afraid I have not made myself quite clear. What I mean is this. The £1,000,000 is going to be allotted in the first place from

Imperial taxation, and I should like to ask——

* THE EARL OF CREWE : I am sorry to interrupt my noble friend, but would it not be better if he placed his Question on the Paper ?

LORD HENEAGE: I should like to ask the noble Earl on what basis the calculation has been made with regard to the amount of money that will be required for the rent of these schools, and, in cases where they have to purchase the schools, what provision has been made for the interest on that money.

* THE EARL OF CREWE: I am afraid I can add nothing to what I have already said in reply to the noble Lord.

## MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read, and discharged.

House adjourned at twenty-five past Five o'clock, till Tomorrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 23rd October,* 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PETITION.*

Betting and Gambling. Petition from Burnley, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

## *PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).*

The following Papers, presented by His Majesty's Command during the Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3685 to 3723.

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series).—Copy of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 654.

3. China (No. 1, 1906).—Copy of Correspondence relative to the Decree issued by the Chinese Government, on 9th May, 1906, respecting the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

4. Egypt (No. 4, 1906).—Copy of Further Papers respecting the Attack on British Officers at Denshawai.

5. Treaty Series (No. 10, 1906).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom and Chile for the Exchange of Money Orders. Signed at London, 30th July, 1906.

6. Treaty Series (No. 11, 1906).—Copy of Treaty between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua with regard to the Mosquito Territory. Signed at Managua, 19th April, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906.

7. Treaty Series (No. 12, 1906).—Copy of Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Nicaragua. Signed at Managua, 28th July, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at London, 24th August, 1906.

8.—Treaty Series (No. 13, 1906).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and Japan respecting Commercial Relations between Canada and Japan. Signed at Tokio, 31st January, 1906. Ratifications exchanged at Tokio, 12th July, 1906.

9. Treaty Series (No. 14, 1906).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting the Delimitation of the Frontier between the British and French Possessions to the East of the Niger. Signed at London, 29th May, 1906. Ratifications exchanged in London, 29th August, 1906.

10. Explosions (Sedgwick, Westmorland).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion

which occurred at the factory of the Sedgwick Gunpowder Company, Limited, at Sedgwick, Westmorland, on the 23rd June, 1906.

11. Explosions (Tuckingmill, Cornwall).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending the fire which occurred at the Explosives Factory at Tuckingmill, Cornwall, on the 20th April, 1906.

12. Factory and Workshop (Factory, &c., Railways and Sidings, &c.).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Chester Jones, Esq., on the Draft Regulations for Locomotives and Waggons on Lines and Sidings in connection wtth Factories, Workshops, &c.

13. Factory and Workshop (Manufacture of Cotton Safeguards.—Copy of Report by H. S. Richmond, one of His Majesty's superintendent Inspectors of Factories on Safeguards for the prevention of Accidents in the Manufacture of Cotton.

14. Mines and Quarries.—Copy of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905; Part II., Labour; General Report and Statistics relating to persons employed and Accidents at Mines and Quarries in the United Kingdom, and to the enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts.

15. Mines and Quarries.—Copy of General Report and Statistics for the year 1905; Part III., Output; General Report and Statistics relating to the Output and Value of the Minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the Metals produced, and the exports and imports of Minerals.

16. Mines and Quarries (Disaster at Courrières Mine, France).—Copy of Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by H. Cunynghame, Esq., C.B., and W. N. Atkinson, Esq., on the Mining Disaster at Courrières, Pas de Calais, France, on the 10th March, 1906.

17. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Great Britian).—Copy of Forty-ninth Report of His Majesty's Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools for 1905. Part II. General Report and Appendices, III. to XI.

18. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Funds) Committee.—Copy of Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Provision of Funds for Reformatory and Industrial Schools. Vol. I. Report and Appendices. Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence.

19. Prisons (England and Wales).—Copy of Report of the Commissioners of Prisons and the Directors of Convict Prisons, with Appendices, for the year ended 31st March, 1906.

20. Canals and Waterways (Royal Commission).—Copy of First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report on the Canals and Inland Navigations of the United Kingdom, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices thereto and Indexes.

21. Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Dublin (Royal Commission).—Copy of the First Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Statements and Returns).

22. Workmen's Compensation.—Copy of Statistics of Proceedings under The Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and The Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1905.

23. Police (Metropolis).—Copy of Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1905.

24. Aliens Act, 1905.—Copy of Return of Alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending 30th September, 1906; together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period requiring Aliens to leave the United Kingdom.

25. Railway Accidents. — Copy of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom, during the year 1905.

26. Railway Accidents.—Copy of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into.

27. Foreign Import Duties.—Copy of Return of the Rates of Import Duty levied in European Countries, Egypt, the United States, Mexico, Japan, China, and Persia, upon the Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom.

28. Colonial Import Duties, 1906.—Copy of Return, relating to the Rates of Import Duties levied upon the principal and other Articles Imported into the British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates.

29. Railway Signalmen (Hours of Labour).—Copy of Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of The Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of instances in which eight-hour and ten-hour Signalmen were on Duty on the Railways of the United Kingdom for more than their booked hours during the month of February, 1906.

30. Board of Trade (Labour Department) (Changes in Wages, &c.).—Copy of Report on changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1905, with comparative Statistics for 1896–1904.

31. Board of Education.—Copy of Regulations relating to the Royal College of Science, with which is incorporated the Royal School of Mines, the Royal College of Art, and to Museums under the Board of Education (from 1st August, 1906, to 31st July, 1907).

32. Board of Education.—Copy of List of Books, Pamphlets, and Papers dealing with the subject of Religious Instruction in Schools.

33. Board of Education.—Copy of List of Public Elementary Schools in England and Wales on 1st January, 1906.

34. Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Copy of Return of Proceedings during the months of March, April, May, June, and July, 1906.

35. National Education (Ireland).—Copy of Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1905–6.

36. National Education (Ireland).—Copy of Section I. of the Appendix to the Seventy-second Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland for the year 1905-6.

37. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops and the number of Live Stock in each county and province of Ireland for the year 1905–6.

38. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1905.

39. Agricultural Statistics (Ireland).—Copy of Return of Prices of Agricultural Products and Live Stock for the year 1905.

40. Irish Land Commission (Estates Commissioners).—Copy of Report of the Estates Commissioners for the year ending 31st March, 1906, and for the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906.

41. Irish Land Commission.—Copy of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the months of March and April, 1906.

42. Poor Law Reform Commission (Ireland).—Copy of Report of the Vice-Regal Commission on Poor Law Reform in Ireland. Vol. I. (Report), Vol. II. (Appendix), and Vol. III. (Minutes of Evidence and Index).

43. Lunacy (Ireland).—Copy of Fifty-fifth Report, with Appendices, of Inspectors of Lunatics (Ireland) for the year 1905.

44. Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Ireland).—Copy of Forty-fourth Report of the Inspector for the year 1905.

45. Public Records (Ireland).—Copy of the Thirty-eighth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland, 1905.

46. Queen's College (Galway).—Copy of Report of the President of Queen's College (Galway) for the Session 1905–6.

47. Inebriate Retreats (Ireland).—Copy of Second Report, with Appendices, of the Inspector of Inebriate Retreats in Ireland for the year 1905.

48. Congested Districts Board (Ireland).—Copy of Fifteenth Report of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland), being for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

49. Fisheries (Ireland).—Copy of Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1905. Part I. General Report.

50. Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copies of Reports, Nos. 489 (Seychelles, Annual

Report for 1905), 490 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1905), 491 (Gambia, Annual Report for 1905), 492 (Jamaica, Annual Report for 1904–5), 493 (Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1905), 494 (Ceylon, Annual Report for 1905), 495 (Turks and Caicos Islands, Annual Report for 1905), 496 (Bahamas, Annual Report for 1905–6), 497 (Barbados, Annual Report for 1905–6), 498 Malta, Annual Report for 1905–6), 499 British Central Africa Protectorate, Annual Report for 1905–6), 500 (The Surveys and Explorations of British Africa, Annual Report of the Colonial Survey Committee, First Year, to August 1906), 501 (Grenada, Annual Report for 1905), 502 (Straits Settlements, Annual Report for 1905), 503 (Gibraltar, Annual Report for 1905), 504 (Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Report for 1905–6).

51. Australia.—Copy of Address to the King on the subject of Home Rule for Ireland and the Reply thereto.

52. Canada—West Indies.—Copy of Agreements between the Canadian Government and Messrs. Pickford and Black for a Steamship Service between Canada and the West Indies.

53. Colonies (General).—Copy of Statement showing the total amount contributed by the Colonies, Dependencies, and Protectorates to the upkeep of the Imperial Institute from the date of its formation to 31st March, 1906.

54. Cyprus.—Copy of Annual Report for 1905–6.

55. Malta.—Copy of Despatch from the Secretary of State relative to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd. 3024]).

56. Straits Settlements.—Copy of Reports on the Federated Malay States for 1905.

57. Tristan da Cunha.—Copy of further Correspondence relating to the Island of Tristan da Cunha (in continuation of [Cd. 1600], June, 1903).

58. West Indies.—Copy of Contract between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for Inter-Colonial Steamship Services between certain Colonies in the West Indies.

59. East India (Railways).—Copy of Administration Report on the Railways in India for the year 1905, by the Railway Board.

60. East India (Sanitary Measures).—Copy of Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1904–5 (Vol. XXXVIII.).

61. East India (Statistical Abstract).—Copy of Statistical Abstract relating to British India from 1895–6 to 1904–5. Fortieth Number.

62. Fishery Board (Scotland).—Copy of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part III., Scientific Investigations.

63. Secondary Education (Scotland),—Copy of Report for the year 1906 by J. Struthers, Esq., C.B., LL.D.

64. Crofter and Cottar Colonisation Scheme.—Copy of Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners appointed to carry out a Scheme of Colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

65. North Sea Fishery Investigations.—Copy of Report of the British Delegates attending the Meeting of the International Council for the exploration of the Sea, at Amsterdam, in 1906, and Report relating thereto.

66. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Intelligence Division).—Copy of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899, the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894, and other Acts for the year 1905.

67. Customs Tariffs (United Kingdom)—Copy of Customs Tariffs of the United Kingdom from 1897–8 to 1906–7.

68. Postal Agreement (Crete).—Copy of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Crete for the Exchange of Money Orders, dated 8th August—1st September, 1906.

69. Births, Deaths, and Marriages (Scotland).—Copy of Fiftieth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland (Abstracts of 1904).

70. Peterhead Harbour. — Copy of Reports respecting Peterhead Harbour Works.

71. Army (Military Works).—Copy of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, 1901, and 1903.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

---

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### IMPERIAL INSTITUTE (INDIAN SECTION).

Copy presented, of Annual Report of the Imperial Institute (Indian Section) for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### EAST INDIA (OFFICERS) EXCHANGE COMPENSATION.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 27th June; *Sir Seymour King*]; to lie upon the Table.

### EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in England, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 30th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 325.]

### LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th May; *Mr. Dillon*]; to lie upon the Table.

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (CAMBRIDGE).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Cambridge, on the 9th February 1906, repealing Statute XXXIV. of the Statutes of the College and substituting therefor an amended Statute XXXIV. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 326.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (CAMBRIDGE).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge on the 23rd March, 1906, altering Statute A., Chapter II., Degrees, Section 19, Affiliated Colleges, of the Statutes of the University [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 327.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of Merton College, Oxford, on 3rd March, 1906, altering Statute V. 3 (b) of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 328.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on 28th February, 1906, altering Statute XIII. (1) of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 329.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on 15th June, 1906, altering Statute II., 21, and Statute IX., 3, respectively, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 330.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, on 4th May, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 8, and Statute XVI., Clause 3, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 331.]

### UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Governing Body of All Souls College, Oxford, on 24th February, 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 7, of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 332.]

### INCOME TAX (ASSESSMENTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd February; *Mr. Samuel Evans*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 333.]

### PUBLIC REVENUE (INTERCEPTION).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd August; *Mr. Bowles*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 334.]

### SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Account presented, of Receipts and Expenditure of the Paymaster-General on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature in respect of the Funds of Suitors of the Court in the year ended 28th February, 1906, and of Account of the National Debt Commissioners for the same period in respect of Funds held by them on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 335.]

### SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 31st August, 1906, declaring that William Sewell, Lad, Royal Laboratory, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 13th August, 1906, declaring that David Clements, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 12th October, 1906, granting to Albert Bottomley, Senior Clerk, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office, a retiring allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 31st August, 1906, cancelling Surplus Consols purchased on account of the Terminable Annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### COUNTY COURTS, ENGLAND (FEES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Order, dated 2nd August, 1906, amending the Order of 30th December, 1903, regulating Court Fees in County Courts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).

Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 5) Warrant, 1906, dated 28th August, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).

Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 6) Warrant, 1906, dated 8th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE (INLAND POST).

Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 7) Warrant, 1906, dated 12th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table

### POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PARCEL POST).

Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant, 1906, dated 26th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Regulations, 1906, dated 29th September, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report on Manuscripts in various Collections. Vol. IV. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Middleton, Smethwick, and Neath, of the County Borough of Huddersfield, of the Councils of the County of Gloucester, and of the Urban Districts of Aberdare, Willesden, and Mountain Ash, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for Barbers' and Hairdressers' Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Cities of Bradford and Cardiff, of the County Borough of Newport, of the Borough of Bridlington, and of the Urban District of Hindley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES).

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for use of Locomotives and Waggons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES OF FITNESS).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 66 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the provisions as to Certificates of Fitness to certain Classes of Workshops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Durham altering the name of the Pit Hill Polling Place to Beamish Polling Place [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Southampton altering certain Polling Districts in the Fareham Parliamentary Division of the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of Lancaster re-dividing the Middleton Parliamentary Division into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SURREY).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Surrey constituting certain Polling Districts within the County [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF SURREY).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Surrey subdividing a Polling District in the Kingston Parliamentary Division of the County [by Act]: to lie upon the Table.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of licence granted to Edith Dady, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of licence granted to Harriet Measham, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the House of Compassion, London, S.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of licence granted to Joseph Symms under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853 to 1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of The Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of licence granted to Ada Booth, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, London, E. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Copy presented, of Additional Rules and Regulations for the government of Prisons in the Leeward Islands [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### VICTORIA (THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1906).

Copy presented, of The Constitution Act, 1906 (Victoria) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 336.]

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain Shops in the Burghs of Fort William, Dundee, Johnstone, Grangemouth, Renfrew, Arbroath, Helensburg, and Falkirk [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. Copy of Accounts of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board for the year ending 1st July, 1906 [by Act].

Loan Societies. Abstract of Accounts of Loan Societies in England and Wales to 31st December, 1904, furnished to the Central Office for the Registry of Friendly Societies [by Act].

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Salary of the Governor of Bermuda.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the diminished importance of Bermuda in view of the withdrawal of the North American fleet, the reduced establishment of the dockyard, and the reduction of the garrison, the question of the governor and commander-in-chief will be reconsidered, in conjunction with the War Office, seeing that his salary of £2,199 is charged to Imperial funds, and that the duties are, during the leave of absence of the governor, performed by the colonel in command of the troops.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) His Majesty's Government consider that the present moment is inopportune for inviting the Colonial legislature to agree to pay a larger proportion of the governor's salary than is now paid by the Colony. But the altered situation has not been lost sight of, and the question of future arrangements is under consideration.

### Irish Harbour Boards.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the names of the different port and harbour authorities in Ireland, and the franchise under which they are respectively elected.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I have forwarded to the hon. Member a copy of a Return giving this information so far as it is known to the Department.

### Post Office Servants' Committee and Abstractors (Assistant Clerks).

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster General whether abstractors (assistant clerks) in the Post Office are not allowed to give evidence before the Post Office Committee of Inquiry; and, if so, seeing that the certificates of qualification issued by the Civil Service Commissioners in the case of such abstractors are made out specially for the Post Office, and that, unlike the second division, a fresh certificate of qualification is necessary if any one of these abstractors is transferred to another department, will he explain why such abstractors are not included in the scope of the inquiry.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) As I stated in Answer to the hon. Member for the Clithero Division of North-East Lancashire on 28th May last,† the class in question is one common to the whole Civil Service, and has been, I presume, on that ground excluded from the inquiry in regard to Post Office servants.

### Payment of Deputies for County Court Judges.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the deputy to a county court judge in Ireland is paid a daily remuneration varying from seven to ten guineas, always charged on the Consolidated Fund; and whether the daily remuneration paid to the deputy to a county court judge in England is invariably four guineas, sometimes charged to the Vote and sometimes paid by the county court judge himself; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The remuneration of a deputy to a county court judge in Ireland is deducted from the salary of the judge himself, under Section 9 of the Act, 14 and 15 Vic. c. 57, and is not a charge on the Consolidated Fund. There appears to be no reason for taking any action in the matter.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 52.

### Irish Deputy-Lieutenants.

Mr. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of Deputy-Lieutenants in each of the Irish counties, specifying the number of Deputy-Lieutenants of each religious denomination in each county.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The following statement shows the number of Deputy-Lieutenants for each of the counties of Ireland. There is no record of the religious persuasion of Deputy-Lieutenants:—

| County. | Number of Deputy-Lieutenants. |
|---|---|
| Antrim - - - | 27 |
| Belfast City - - | 17 |
| Armagh - - - | 17 |
| Carlow - - - | 8 |
| Cavan - - - | 15 |
| Clare - - - | 19 |
| Cork - - - | 32 |
| Cork City - - | 10 |
| Donegal - - - | 24 |
| Down - - - | 34 |
| Dublin - - - | 23 |
| Dublin City - - | 18 |
| Fermanagh - - | 23 |
| Galway - - - | 24 |
| Kerry - - - | 21 |
| Kildare - - - | 15 |
| Kilkenny- - - | 19 |
| King's County- - | 14 |
| Leitrim - - - | 19 |
| Limerick - - - | 21 |
| Limerick City - - | 4 |
| Londonderry - - | 21 |
| Londonderry City - | 4 |
| Longford - - - | 13 |
| Louth - - - | 14 |
| Mayo - - - | 27 |
| Meath - - - | 21 |
| Monaghan - - | 20 |
| Queen's County - | 23 |
| Roscommon - - | 14 |
| Sligo - - - | 16 |
| Tipperary - - | 33 |
| Tyrone - - - | 22 |
| Waterford - - | 20 |
| Waterford City - | 2 |
| Westmeath - - | 18 |
| Wexford - - - | 22 |
| Wicklow - - - | 17 |

### Rates and Fares on the Castlewellan and Newcastle, (County Down) Railway.

Mr. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state if the Department of Agriculture has made any investigation into the rates and fares charged on the new railway from Castlewellan and Newcastle, county Down, as compared with the rates and fares from other stations nearer to Belfast; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agriculture have made an investigation into the rates and fares referred to in the Question, and are in communication with the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Company in the matter.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Dock Accommodation for "Dreadnought."

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, how many docks there are on the coasts of the United Kingdom which can accommodate the "Dreadnought," distinguishing between private and Government docks, and including any docks now in course of building; whether all these docks will accommodate the "Invincible" class of cruisers; whether he is aware that on the East Coast one private dock is already in existence and another projected which are capable of accommodating these large vessels; and whether these facts will be duly considered when the question of Rosyth is again before the Board.

The SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. E. Robertson, Dundee): There are five Government docks and ten private docks in the United Kingdom which can take the "Dreadnought." All these docks could accommodate cruisers of the "Invincible" class. There is one dock already in existence on the East Coast capable of taking a "Dreadnought," but I have no information as to the second projected dry dock to which the hon. Member refers. The Answer to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

### London Mail Cart Drivers.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has now come to a decision as to the conditions of service of the metropolitan mail van drivers; and whether any, and, if so, what alterations have been made.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I regret that I am not yet in a position to make a statement on the subject. As my hon. friend is aware, there is unfortunately no recognised rate of wages in the trade in London. That being so, it became necessary to ascertain what rates were being paid and received for similar services outside. The Board of Trade have kindly obtained for me some information on the subject, but this has necessarily taken time. The Carmen's Union is also about to send me some further information in the matter.

### Mr. Hugh Watt.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I desire to ask the Home Secretary upon what ground he has reduced the sentence passed upon Mr. Hugh Watt from five years penal servitude to one year's imprisonment, and why he declines to give the prisoner the benefit of the good marks he has earned in prison.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) replied that he had understood that the hon. Member had given notice of the Question for Wednesday, and was not, therefore, prepared with an Answer.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: To-morrow.

### Evicted Tenants in Ireland.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland if he could inform the House of the progress which had been made by the Estates Commissioners in the reinstatement of evicted tenants up to the present date; what were the causes of the practical breakdown of this portion of the Act of 1903, and what steps the Government proposed to take to remove those obstacles to a settlement of the Irish Land Question.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) in reply, stated he was sensible of the grave importance of the subject. He had communicated the Question to the Estates Commissioners, who were preparing an Answer to the Question, and asked the hon. Member to postpone it till Thursday or Monday next.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Monday.

### The Magistracy.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will inform the House in how many instances and in what manner the preponderance of Conservative justices on county and borough benches has impaired the confidence that ought to prevail, and caused a legitimate sense of injustice; and whether he can give any cases in which the law has been maladministered or a miscarriage of justice has taken place by reason of the political views of the justices.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The Home Secretary on July 30th † in my absence, and on my behalf, answered a Question which was addressed to me; and his Answer, in which I entirely concur, no doubt supplies the foundation for the hon. Member's Question. It was not suggested by anything that he said that Justices of the Peace have maladministered the law under the influence of political opinions. What he said was that the Lord Chancellor wished to secure a fair balance of classes and opinions on the bench. The view held by His Majesty's Government is that it is unjust that any persons should be excluded from, or treated as ineligible for the magistracy because they do not belong to a particular Party. They are of opinion that where this is the case, confidence is impaired. If the hon. Member does not share this view of the matter, I am afraid nothing that I could say would convince him.

### Meeting of Convocation.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether Letters of Business have been issued to the Convocations of Canterbury and York; for what purpose these bodies have been summoned to meet next month; whether Letters of Business give them any legal powers which they do not otherwise possess, and whether the Letters themselves, with any communications from the Government to the two Archbishops which might have accompanied them, will be laid upon the Table of the House.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxii., 459–461.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It has been customary to issue Letters of Business where the Convocation desired to consider special matters relating to the Church of England. It is at least doubtful whether they could otherwise freely debate and pass Resolutions in regard to the Report of the Ritual Commission. His Majesty's Government were not responsible for summoning Convocation, but are informed that it is intended there to discuss the Report referred to. The Letters of Business were issued at the express request of the two Archbishops, who were informed, when their request was acceded to, that His Majesty's Government retained their complete freedom of judgment and action on the subject. There is no objection to laying Papers if they are moved for.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked for information as to the course of business.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the Government intended to begin the Committee Stage of the Plural Voting Bill to-morrow, and to go on with it until it was finished. After that they would take the Trade Disputes Bill in the same way until it was finished—that was the Report Stage. If the Merchant Shipping Bill was not disposed of that night it would have to stand over till after those Bills.

## NEWFOUNDLAND.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Do the Government propose to lay any Papers regarding Newfoundland?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I will answer that Question to-morrow.

## ALLEGED QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said he wished to bring forward, as touching the privileges of Members, the following Motion: "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the obstructions which have been placed in the House during the recess, whereby eleven seats appropriated for the use of Members near the Speaker's Chair have been obstructed, and a barricade erected in front of the same, and Members prevented from using them; whereby strangers are to be introduced above the Bar; also a further alteration, whereby Members are deprived of their right of introducing strangers on the right-hand side below the Gallery; and to report."

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has not favoured me with any intimation of the fact that he was going to raise this question. I do not think this is a matter of privilege. It is a matter of the construction of the House. It is a very proper subject for consideration, but I do not think it is one that raises a question of privilege, except in a very incidental manner.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: May I submit that any obstruction to the use by any Member of any seat appropriated for the use of Members is a breach of privilege. I can give authority for it in Erskine May.

*MR. SPEAKER: As I understand, the accommodation offered to Members is greater now than it was before the adjournment.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: The second point of my Motion is that strangers are introduced above the Bar. This, I think, is contrary to all precedent, and requires the authority of the House before being permitted. I submit that it is a very serious breach of privilege. The Standing Orders are clear that notice is not required for a Question regarding a breach of privilege.

*MR. SPEAKER: I know quite well that no notice to the House is required, but I think it has been customary to give private notice to the Speaker in order that he may have an opportunity of looking up the precedents and consulting the officers of the House. I am still of opinion that the matter ought not to be raised as a question of privilege, though it can very properly be raised, as the hon. Member suggests, by a Motion for a Select Committee.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, N. E., Rossendale) said he had already arranged for a Supplementary Estimate to be placed before Parliament, which would give the requisite opportunity for discussing the matter.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) asked whether it was in order for any hon. Member so to alter the construction of the House that strangers could be introduced on the floor of the House above the Bar.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member thinks that strangers have been admitted into this House improperly, there is a course open to him under the Standing Orders—he can call attention to the fact that strangers are present.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: The powers of ordering strangers to withdraw are strictly confined to strangers below the Bar and in the front gallery. There is this further anomaly, that we have actually got strangers here now above the Bar without the power of ordering them to withdraw.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has not in his mind the same Standing Order that I have.

LORD TURNOUR: As a protest against the action of the Government, I beg to give notice that I will call attention to the fact that I spy strangers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked when it was proposed to submit the Supplementary Estimate, which, it seemed, would afford the most convenient opportunity for discussing the subject.

*MR. HARCOURT was unable to say exactly when the Estimate would be produced. The alterations had been made in accordance with an intimation he gave during the discussion of the Vote for his own office, when he stated that unless some protest were raised he should assume there was general assent to the proposal. The alterations had added three seats to the accommodation provided for Members.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): Is it a matter of privilege that there are strangers above the Bar on the floor of the House?

*MR. SPEAKER: I have pointed out already that if any hon. Member thinks strangers are present who he thinks ought not to be present, there is a course open to him.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I spy strangers.

Motion made, and Question put, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw"—(*Viscount Turnour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 267. (Division List No. 319.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.HughO.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings,Rt.Hn.J (Birmingham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.E'dmds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill. Henry (Staff'sh.

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Viscount Turnour.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan( Cardigan)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement Denbigh
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, EdmundG.(Leominster)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh,W.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W )
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.

Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (S'thampton)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## WRIT ISSUED DURING THE ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he had issued during the Adjournment a Warrant for a New Writ for the County of Glamorgan (Mid Division), in the room of Samuel Thomas Evans, esquire, K.C. (Recorder of the Borough of Swansea).

---

## NEW MEMBERS.

Samuel Thomas Evans, esquire, K.C., for County of Glamorgan (Mid Division).

Edward George Hemmerde, esquire, County of Denbigh (Eastern Division).

---

## MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The new clauses standing in the name of the President of the Board of Trade, although they appear on the Notice Paper for the convenience of Members, cannot properly be taken to-day, because notice of them has not technically been given. Notices should have been handed in to the clerks at the Table before the House rose for the autumn. That was not done, but by my instructions they have appeared on the Paper to-day, although technically they cannot be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is it in order to ask you by what possible course we are to be in a position to discuss the Government's new clauses?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): Upon that point, Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to make a statement. Many of these clauses are in respect of matter which has arisen since the House adjourned. One of them is put down at the request of the Canadian Government, and this only reached me a fortnight or three weeks ago. I have a new clause to meet their case, and the others are concessions made to shipowners. There is only one of them, I think, which will be controversial. I suggest that we should proceed now with the Amendments, four-fifths of which are concessions made to shipowners, and that then the Bill should be re-committed in respect of the new clauses when they can be fully discussed.

Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): Do I understand we are now to discuss new clauses other than the clauses moved by the Government?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Elgin and Nairn is the only Member who complied with the rules by giving notice before the House rose on 4th

August. He is therefore entitled to come first.

MR. A. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn) said the clause which he proposed was rendered necessary by a decision of the Court of Admiralty which occurred at the time the Bill was being considered in Committee. The shipowners' liability had been limited by Act of Parliament under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, to a sum of £8 per ton. But by this recent decision a vessel chartered by a firm of contractors, who manned her with their own servants, injured another vessel, and consequently the contractors had a claim made upon them, but although they were owners in one aspect of the law, their liability was not limited under the Act of 1894. As an illustration they might take a line of coasting vessels trading from London to Liverpool, each vessel being of 1,000 tons register, and worth £10,000. Let them suppose that this line of steamers, being short of a vessel, owing to some reason or other, chartered a vessel to make up their fleet, manned her with their own crew, sent her to London from Liverpool in the usual way, and she had the misfortune to sink a large Atlantic liner in a fog or through the negligence of the captain or officers. Under this decision, the charterer of that vessel would be liable to the full extent of the damage, which might involve the ruin of the man. Had he been the owner his liability would have been limited to a sum of £8 per ton. That was a manifest injustice. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade would accept the clause as a necessary protection for the charterers of vessels which it was intended they should have.

New clause—

"In Sections five hundred and two to five hundred and nine of the principal Act shall be read so that the word 'owner' shall be deemed to include the word 'charterer.'"—(*Mr. A. Williamson.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said this was a difficulty which had only recently arisen owing to a decision of the Court of Admiralty, which was somewhat of a surprise to those concerned in shipping matters. The point was quite simple although very technical. A shipowner was entitled to certain benefits by way of limitation of his liability where his ship had caused damage to another ship. He was not to be held responsible beyond a stated amount estimated upon the tonnage of the ship, which could not exceed, on the whole, £15 for each ton. The clause which conferred upon the owner that privilege, in using the word "owner" had not extended the phraseology so as to include persons who were not in fact and truth owners. For instance, a charterer had been held to be entitled to the benefit of the law in this respect although he was not an owner in the exact legal nomenclature. Under the recent decision the charterer, who was, in fact, only a temporary owner of the ship, would be deprived of that benefit. To sum the matter up shortly, he thought that the law relating to the temporary owner of a ship should be in accord as far as possible with the law relating to the permanent owner of the ship, at any rate, so far as the public were concerned. For that reason the Government adopted the clause suggested and had but one objection to it. His hon. friend had used the word charterer. There were many kinds of charterers, and with many of them there was no question of this liability arising. The clause was only intended to deal with the case of charterers who were temporary owners and who were working the ship and merely using it for carrying their cargo. He therefore suggested that there should be added after the word "charterer" the words "to whom the ship has been demised."

*MR. HOUSTON (Liverpool, West Toxteth) agreed with the expressions of the Solicitor-General, but pointed out that the limitation suggested was of a somewhat dangerous nature, because it only applied in the case of a ship which had been demised to the charterer. He thought the decision was not a question of a time charterer altogether, and hoped the Solicitor-General would reconsider the matter. Why should it be limited to a demised ship? They were constantly having new precedents, and it would be well for the matter to be settled now.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR held that unless it could be shown that damage would be done to some interests by leaving the words as wide as the mover of the clause desired, it would be far better to leave them as they were.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate) said it would be a great impediment in the way of business if the words suggested by the Solicitor-General were not added to the Amendment. It was quite impossible for any merchant or business man chartering a ship simply for the carriage of cargo from one British port to some Colonial or foreign port to go into all the questions of the liabilities which might arise under the Bill. At present a merchant who chartered a vessel knew that he was going to pay a certain price for that vessel to do certain work, and his liability would there end. The shipowner who was working the ship, employing the crew, and arranging the details, should be the individual liable.

MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) did not think the hon. Member who has just spoken had any acquaintance with shipping matters, otherwise he would not have made the speech he had. The surprise decision in the Law Courts affected the liability of charterers in a way that nobody ever conceived possible before. The new clause was intended to meet their difficulty, and to put the charterers in the position in which the Solicitor-General said they ought to be. As to the suggested addition of the Solicitor-General, no useful purpose was to be served by adding the words.

*MR. CAIRNS (Newcastle-on-Tyne) pointed out that from a shipping business point of view there was much to be said in favour of what had been advanced by the hon. Member for Reigate. There was what is known as the net form charter, which was quite uncommon nowadays—in which the charterer appointed the crew and captain, and therefore assumed all the liabilities of navigation. Then there was the common form of charter to which they were accustomed every day and which the last speaker had perhaps forgotten, where the charterer hired from the owner the vessel along with the crew and the captain, and therefore the owner remained liable for the acts of navigation. It was important that the House should be made acquainted with these distinctions. He thought the Solicitor-General was following the right course in limiting the clause to cases where the vessel was demised to charterers.

Clause read a second time.

SIR W. ROBSON then moved the Amendment he had suggested. The Government were desirous of meeting the views which shipowners and charterers had put forward. It was not a question of one side desiring to do what was unwelcome to the other side. They desired to remove a grievance, which fell only upon the class he had described, namely, those charterers who had taken demise of a ship. It did not fall upon the ordinary charterer, because he chartered only to carry goods. There was only one form of charterer who came under any liability at all, namely, a charterer to whom a ship had been demised. It was by no means desirable that the word "charterer" should be left in the Bill without any limitation indicating the class to whom it was intended to apply. The words covered the exact grievance and prevented the use of phraseology which went beyond it.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new Clause—

"To leave out the word 'charterer,' and insert the words 'any charterer to whom the ship is demised.'"—(*Sir W. Robson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'charterer' stand part of the clause."

MR. HOUSTON opposed. There were he said, two forms of time charter. One was the net form of charter, where the charterer hired a ship and provided the captain and the whole crew, who therefore became his servants, and this was a clear case of demise to the charterer; and the other was the Government form of time charter, where the owner of a ship hired the whole ship to the charterer with the captain and crew. Was the second case a demise to the charterer? He thought the decision lately given, which had produced a new state of affairs, was with regard to a Government time charter.

SIR W. ROBSON said that the second form of charter referred to, namely, a charter where there was no demise and the owner of the ship retained control of the crew and paid them, and, indeed, was still working the ship, was not a form of charter under which any liability could fall upon the charterer.

*MR. HOUSTON pointed out that the captain had to obey the orders of the charterer, and was responsible for the servants whom he paid. He would accept the Solicitor-General's Amendment if it was made quite clear that in all these cases the charterer incurred no responsibility.

SIR W. ROBSON said that in the second case the captain and crew were not under the orders of the charterer so far as navigation was concerned. They might be as to the port to which the vesssel was to be taken. There being no responsibility so far as navigation was concerned there could be no liability. He assured the hon. Member that the clause was fully considered, and if there was any possible chance of the charterer coming under any liability the Government would attend to the matter.

*MR. HOUSTON: Will the House of Lords and the Court of Appeal so construe the clause? If the Solicitor-General will give me his assurance that they will accept his dictum, I have nothing further to say.

MR. BONAR LAW (Dulwich) said the subject concerned shipowners a good deal, and the view he took agreed with that expressed by the Solicitor-General. He thought the words of the Solicitor-General embraced the class they desired to protect.

Question put and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I move the next Amendment, in order to give the House an opportunity of reversing the decision arrived at by the Committee by a small majority. It is proposed to apply the provisions with regard to load lines to foreign ships in British ports. If they arrive at a British port overloaded they will be subject to the same regulations and the same law as are applicable to British ships. It was sought to extend this legal responsibility to a foreign vessel if overloaded in a British sense at a foreign port, and she was to be punished on arrival at a British port. I think that is putting the legal responsibility on foreign shipowners too far. It might lead to complications. I quite admit that foreign ships in British ports ought to be subject to British law, but it is carrying it too far if you fine a foreign shipowner for an offence which he commits in his own ports, and I do not think the House will agree to it. It might lead to retaliation upon British ships. I am certain it will create ill feeling, and there is no real justification for it. All that we can reasonably demand is that when they arrive here they must comply with our demands. I therefore beg to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out the words 'and on all voyages with cargo to.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. BONAR LAW said he was very sorry that the right hon. Gentleman had tried to upset the decision of the Committee. After listening to his speech he was quite at a loss to understand what were the grounds on which he based that decision. He had said that the matter was not one of sufficient importance to justify the course taken by the Committee. One of the main objects of the Bill was to get equality of treatment between foreign and British ships in our ports. One of the grievances of British shipowners was that foreign ships were permitted to carry cargoes into our ports which British ships were not allowed to do. If the Amendment was carried the advantage of that part of the Bill would be illusory. As the Bill stood now British and foreign ships in our ports were to be treated on exactly the same footing as regards loading. If the Amendment of the Government were carried it would mean that every foreign ship trading to our ports might be overloaded to the full extent of the coal which she consumed on her voyage. What did that mean? Let them take a relative instance. An ordinary tramp steamer 5,000 tons register, carrying a cargo of grain from America, would burn 400 tons of coal. The Amendment meant that a foreign ship engaged in that trade could carry 400 tons more cargo than was permitted to a British ship. That was an enormous advantage, because the extra 400 tons was clear profit. Such a ship made a good many voyages in the course of a year, and he thought it would be found that a foreign ship at the end of the year would make a handsome profit while a British ship of the same tonnage and engaged in the same trade might make a loss. Nobody wanted British shipowners to be at this disadvantage. The right hon. Gentleman, whom he would like to congratulate on the way in which he had dealt with the Bill outside the House, had shown by his speeches that his desire was to meet legitimate grievances. Why did he propose this Amendment? He was afraid of foreign complications. This very subject was very carefully considered by the Committee, who came unanimously to the decision that they might risk carrying out this proposal. That Committee included two hon. Gentlemen who were now members of the Government. He was told it was against international law, but how could that possibly be when we were doing precisely the same thing now, and when the right hon. Gentleman proposed precisely the same thing in another clause of the Bill? We now prevented by law a foreign ship engaged in the timber trade bringing a deck load of timber into this country except under the same conditions as a British ship. We clearly carried out the principle under the existing laws.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the hon. Member was not quite accurate. The offence was a continuous offence. We could not fine a foreign vessel so long as it kept out of territorial waters. We prosecuted foreign vessels which broke our laws in our territorial waters.

MR. BONAR LAW said he was very glad of that interruption because he thought he could show that that was not the principle of this amendment. That was the law at present with regard to timber ships. But let them take the other analogy. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to make foreign ships bringing grain to our ports liable to exactly the same conditions as were held to apply to our ships, and he said the difference was that he punished the ship here because she was in the condition she was when she arrived here: he did not punish her because of the way she was loaded abroad. But if the right hon. Gentleman looked at the question carefully he would find that was not so. But even if it was so, by the wording of his own Act the right hon. Gentleman would fine that ship because she was not loaded according to the conditions which he had laid down. Upon the right hon. Gentleman's own showing the difference did not exist, because we controlled these ships, not in order that they might be safe upon reaching territorial waters, but in order that they might be safe when crossing the water. There was still another analogy. Foreign nations at the present moment did exactly the same as we proposed to do. The United States of America would not allow emigrants to be taken into America unless they were put on ships in foreign ports according to the regulations which the United States had laid down. The right hon. Gentleman might say it was the way in which they arrived, but if the shipowners put their ships right when they entered territorial waters the United States would still insist that they should fulfil their conditions. Here was one injustice to British shipowners which the right hon. Gentleman was anxious to put an end to. It was only the beginning and it infringed a certain principle, but it was a principle which the right hon. Gentleman was infringing himself. The question was so plain that he was certain if it was left with the House to decide the matter according to the merits they would accept the decision arrived at upstairs. The proposal as it now stood was carried by the Committee with the assistance of a supporter of the Government. It was simply a business question, a question of detail, and no one could possibly say, if the view of the Government was not carried, that it was a Party defeat or a Party triumph. There was only one other consideration, but he hoped it would influence the House, though he felt it was a delicate matter. He was greatly interested in this Bill, because if the right hon. Gentleman claimed to be its father he (Mr. Bonar Law) might claim to be its grandfather, as he was Chairman of two Committees which had to consider it, and his only desire was to make it a good

Bill. If any foreign Government did take offence the right hon. Gentleman would be able to say "I tried to prevent this being done, but the House of Commons was determined that in this country foreign ships should be treated neither better nor worse than British ships."

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR regretted that the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down should have referred to any Party spirit, because the Grand Committee came to its decision not by a majority of one, but by a larger majority which was quite independent of Party, and the decision was arrived at solely on the merits of the case. He had listened carefully to the speech of his right hon. friend and had hoped there would be something more in the way of justification for the overruling of an Amendment which was sanctioned in its principle and form by a Grand Committee after full discussion, and with a full sense of its responsibility. He quite endorsed the arguments which had been brought forward by the last speaker, arguments which he thought were quite conclusive as to the merits of this question. The whole object of this Bill from the shipowner's point of view was lost unless some successful attempt was made to put foreign vessels on the same footing in British ports as British vessels. In some quarters there seemed to be an apprehension that this was a Shipowner's Endowment Bill. There never was such a mistake. This was a Bill for the regulation of an industry which always had been regulated and not always to the advantage of the shipowners. The Select Committee which sat in 1905 stated in regard to this very point—

> "In practice, foreign ships are frequently overloaded on voyages to the United Kingdom; they are also overloaded to a certain extent on voyages from this country; and the fact that they are not marked may in some cases assist them in escaping detection. The load line fixes the limit to which it is safe and prudent to load, and the rules by which it is determined can at any time be modified to meet altered conditions. We do not think it will be unreasonable to require foreign ships to observe a loading limit when entering as well as leaving our ports, and to prescribe that they shall be marked with a load line."

The necessity of making foreign ships conform to our load line when leaving British ports was accepted. It was part of the existing law. They could be detained if overloaded, and therefore the whole object of this Bill, so far as the load line was concerned, of enforcing safety, if it were thought desirable to enforce the safety of foreign vessels trading with these shores, was lost, unless we insisted that they should not arrive here if they were allowed to leave the port of origin in an unfairly loaded condition. He did not think it was necessary to add to the technical arguments used with such precision by the hon. Gentleman opposite. It was obvious that a foreign vessel arriving from America loaded to her marks must have had an advantage over our vessels of some 400 tons. Without regard to Party or economic or fiscal ideas he thought the whole House could unite in saying that in British ports foreign vessels should be in the same position, no better and no worse, as British vessels. He did not know what might be the risk to which allusion had been made as regards foreign complications, but one thing which might have escaped the right hon. Gentleman was that under this Bill he had a general dispensing power, and that if this clause was inserted it would be possible for him, if a foreign Government had a legitimate complaint, to use his power to exempt any vessel which it might be desirable to exempt. With that weapon in his hand the right hon. Gentleman would be quite safe, and the Government would be none the worse off for having a weapon of this kind in their armoury, not for the purpose of starting a commercial war, but in order that they might be able to say to a foreign Government that their trading vessels were treated no better and no worse than vessels trading under our own flag. He thought all shipowners regretted extremely that his right hon. friend had felt it necessary to reverse the decision of the Committee, and if his decision was challenged he should go into the lobby against it.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough) said that when this Bill was before the Committee he supported the shipowners upon this point, but he was now inclined to modify his views. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had made out a very good case. He did not think the hon. Member for Dulwich was right with regard to the deck loads of timber on foreign vessels.

being penalised in our ports. It would be quite immaterial with regard to a foreign vessel whether the load line was submerged or not. If a foreign vessel left a foreign port bound for the United Kingdom, and the shifting boards and feeders were not in proper order, it would not be possible for that vessel to put them right at sea; therefore she would arrive in port in a defective condition, and consequently would be liable under this Bill. The British shipowners seemed very anxious to have protection from foreign competition in this matter, and they complained that foreign ships were able to come into our ports and have some advantages. Later on the House would be dealing with foreign seamen, and he hoped then that the British shipowners would be ready to extend the same protection to British seamen that they were now seeking for themselves. Later on when this point was being discussed, no doubt the same hon. Members who wanted to penalise foreign shipowners would be screaming out against anything that would interfere with the employment of the lowest kind of foreigners who competed with British sailors. If they were going to have fair play in this matter let them have it on both sides. As the President of the Board of Trade had already pointed out, this might lead to very serious complications. He supported the shipowners upstairs but they ran away from him on another important point. His mind was quite open on this point, but he would want stronger arguments than had yet been brought forward to induce him to vote against the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER (Stockton) said the President of the Board of Trade had promised that this question should have fair treatment and consideration as far as shipowners were concerned. He was glad to say on behalf of shipowners that they thought the right hon. Gentleman had shown that he intended to deal fairly with shipowners. He had said that the object of this Bill was to place foreign shipowners in exactly the same position as English shipowners. That being so, he could not see why he was endeavouring to alter the Bill to the disadvantage of the British shipowners. He asked that foreign shipowners as far as this matter of loading was concerned should be put in the same position as British shipowners in this country. If the right hon. Gentleman persisted in his Amendment it would undoubtedly be carried, but he appealed to him to deal fairly with British shipowners. This was a very serious question indeed. Foreign ships frequently arrived in our ports in such a condition that they must have been very much overloaded when they left foreign ports. Consequently they had arrived here barely complying with our present load line. This was a very serious matter indeed, because all nations were now competing very keenly for the carrying trade of the world, and if British ships were to be penalised to that extent even in our own country what could we expect? The President of the Board of Trade had said that if this clause were not amended there would be retaliation by foreign countries. They had in the past heard far too much about retaliation, but every shipowner knew that all foreign countries had been trying their best to take our carrying trade from us and to treat their own ships more favourably than ours, and he was surprised to hear any such fears as those which had been expressed by the right hon. Gentleman. Whatever could possibly be done in that direction had already been done, and there was not the slightest foundation for fear of any such retaliation by any shipowning country in the world, for they could not do any more. He had had the honour of meeting the representative of a large foreign firm in this city, and naturally he took the opportunity of asking him, if any legislation passed which might damage the trade of his country, what he would advise his own country to do. His reply was—

> "If you treat our ships in the same way as your own we shall have no reason to find fault, and we should take no steps whatever to do anything to harm your trade or to retaliate in any way."

Therefore he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider his proposals. After all, this Bill was seriously considered by the Grand Committee, who unanimously decided to adopt this clause. [Cries of "No."] What was the use of sending a Bill to a Grand Committee and, after they had recommended a thing almost unanimously, trying to upset their decision? The hon. Member for Middlesbrough had pointed out that the hon. Member for Dulwich was not quite accurate in what he said, but after all this was a question of principle, and if they interfered with regard to measurements of timber on the deck it was the same principle as interfering with the weight, and therefore an argument of that description must necessarily fall to the ground. He did not share the fears of the President of the Board of Trade, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to withdraw his Amendment and not stand opposed to the interest of the shipowning industry.

*MR. CAIRNS said that this clause, when it was before the Grand Committee, was nothing like unanimously agreed to; in fact it was carried by a small majority in the absence of the President of the Board of Trade. The hon. Gentleman opposite had appealed to the House for fair play. The House of Commons was always open to appeals of that character, but when they spoke of fair play surely they meant to do unto others as they would be done by. There was not a nation in the world that applied such a condition as this to British ships. The hon. Member for Dulwich had referred to emigrant ships, but he could not point to a single instance where, with regard to cargoes or with regard to free board, they had such a regulation enacted against them.

MR. BONAR LAW said that might be so, but the reason was that no foreign nation had a load line so stringent as ours.

*MR. CAIRNS pointed out that the load line of this nation would be more stringent after the passing of this Act, He could tell the House of the case of a 5,000 ton vessel bought from England by German owners, which under the German freeboard carried 200 tons less than under the British freeboard. How could they enforce this provision? It could not be done and if they passed it to-day it would be absolutely a dead letter. How could they penalise a foreign ship loaded in Argentina to proceed to Las Palmas for orders whose destination might be any port in Europe? The same difficulty applied to a vessel coming from America to Cork for orders? By this proposal they were beginning a kind of legal enactment which they had never had before, and he trusted that upon this matter the President of the Board of Trade would put his back to the wall and would refuse to become an "agent provocateur" to the whole world and so incite foreign nations to make reprisals against British shipping.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said the point before the House seemed to be an extremely simple one and ought to be considered very shortly. According to British regulations and our present Acts of Parliament and the rules of the Board of Trade, if a British ship overloaded in any part of the world and came into any of the ports of this country with a load line which showed that she had overloaded in the original port of loading, although when she entered our waters her load line was in proper order, nevertheless she could be fined by the Board of Trade regulations because she overloaded at the port from which she originally started.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: But a British ship overloading in a foreign port would not be allowed to leave.

MR. BOWLES said he was well aware that unless she obtained permission from the Consul she could not leave, but there was no doubt that British ships coming to our ports had been penalised for coming in a condition which plainly showed that although when they entered the port they were not overloaded, they had originally loaded too deep. The question was whether foreign ships were to be subjected to the same regulations as British ships. He understood that the object of this Bill was to put British shipowners upon an equality with foreign shipowners, and that was what the President of the Board of Trade was anxious to do. It was not disputed that if the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman was carried, British ships in their competition with foreign ships would be placed at a disadvantage, and the right hon. Gentleman had said that he could not remedy that admitted inequality because it would lead to retaliation by foreign nations. If that were so, it was a very strong argument which ought to receive their earnest consideration, but he failed to understand how the right hon. Gentleman could use that argument unless he totally misunderstood the provisions of Clause 3, which contained regulations of a far more stringent character than any contained in Clause 1, which were to be enforced in regard to a foreign ship which loaded in a foreign country and then came to the United Kingdom. Under Clause 3 a foreign ship which came here with a cargo of grain, for example, was subjected to two sections of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1895, and she was bound, under the clause, to give to the Customs Officer, who remitted it to the Board of Trade, an exact statement of what? Of the state of the ship; what her draught was and her clear side at the port of final loading. What was the object of that statement? The Board of Trade would, of course, deal with that statement as if it were the statement of a British ship. By Clause 3 of this Bill it was perfectly clear that conditions were imposed upon foreign ships quite as stringent and quite as likely to excite the anger of foreign Governments as any of the liabilities which were suggested in the clause under discussion. He could not see why the right hon. Gentleman desired to pass this Amendment, anxious as he was to put British ships upon an equality with foreign ships. Why did he leave this admitted and undoubted inequality exactly as it stood at the present time? How, in view of Clause 3 which imposed more onerous restrictions, could he declare to the House that he dared not do what he wished should be done, simply because foreign Governments would be so angry at the imposition of the very restrictions and precautions which he himself was imposing upon their ships if they were engaged in carrying grain? For his part he had not yet heard any serious defence of this Amendment, and he agreed with the majority of the Committee upon the matter. If a division was taken he would be forced upon clear grounds of ordinary fair play and equity, and in the interests of the intention of the Bill itself, to resist this Amendment.

*MR. HOUSTON hoped the President of the Board of Trade would accept his assurance that he did not rise to criticise this Bill with any feeling of hostility, but the reverse. He was ready to admit that the right hon. Gentleman had been actuated by a spirit of justice and fair play in dealing with this matter. For intelligence, industry, and effort to fulfil the high duties of his office few Presidents had done better than the right hon. Gentleman. No one would question that the President of the Board of Trade possessed great intelligence, but could he not see that he was making two laws for foreign ships, one for sailing ships, and the other for steamers? When a sailing ship loaded a cargo of grain in a Colonial or a foreign port and came into a British port, if she was deeper than she ought to be, being an English ship, the right hon. Gentleman would deal with her; but then he should remember that that ship had not been consuming any coal for bunker purposes and had not been lightening herself on the way as a steamer would. Therefore she left the port of loading in the same condition as that in which she arrived here. It was, however, different in the case of the steamer, which might load very much deeper at her loading port but would lighten by consumption of her bunkers on her passage to a British discharging port, arriving with a proper amount of freeboard. He thought the right hon. Gentleman must see the difference, and he was surprised, with all the intelligence which characterised him in every other direction, that he had not noticed this point before. Among the many virtues possessed by the right hon. Gentleman was that of courage; his visit to Birmingham proved that. He was surprised that the right hon. Gentleman, whom, notwithstanding his mistaken ideas in some directions, he looked upon as a typical Briton, possessing so much courage, should appear to be so afraid of foreign competition and retaliation. He did not wish to traverse the ground which had been covered by the hon. Member for Dulwich and other speakers, but unquestionably the foreigner, if and when he could, would impose all the restrictions he possibly could upon British ships. The only reason the foreigner did not do so at present was that he required our tonnage to carry his goods. Germany was building up very rapidly a large mercantile marine, and when she had done this, did they mean to tell him that she would not close her ports to British shipping? Speaking as he did for the owners, not of tramp steamers, but of liners, he might say that they were affected very little under this Bill. They were not concerned so much with the question of deadweight cargoes, and therefore he could speak with greater freedom than a tramp shipowner who was directly affected by this Bill. With regard to foreign sailors he had quite recently taken out the number of foreigners employed in the whole of his fleet, and it did not amount to 2 per cent., and those men were picked up abroad through the desertion of the British seaman. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept his assurance that he approached this matter in quite a friendly spirit. He much appreciated the fair, just, and painstaking way in which the right hon. Gentleman had dealt with the whole subject. He trusted, however, that he would not press this Amendment, but would accept the clause as it passed through the Grand Committee.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) said that this was not a question between English and foreign shipowners or between free trade and protection; the all important question was the saving of life and limb, and they ought all to be agreed upon that point. If, to protect the lives of the sailors, it was right to have a certain load line with regard to ships going from British ports, he contended that it was equally right to have the same safeguard in regard to vessels coming into a British port. He could not see any difference upon this point between vessels coming into a port and vessels going out of it. Of course he knew the question of complications was an important matter, but the right hon. Gentleman opposite did not press this point sufficiently strongly to warrant anyone changing their opinion in the direction that he had indicated to-day. So far as he was personally concerned, he should have no hesitation in voting against the Government on this matter.

SIR W. ROBSON thought the hon. Member who had just spoken failed to appreciate the fact that if any foreign vessel came here showing her load line submerged, she could be punished according to our laws for all those offences which came within our jurisdiction. We could deal with all vessels, either foreign or English, if they came within our jurisdiction, if the load line was submerged. What was suggested was that, although a foreign vessel might enter one of our ports with her load line above the water, yet inferences might be drawn as to the quantity of cargo or bunker coal she carried when she left the foreign port, and that we should punish her owner, not for the condition of the vessel in our port, but for her condition outside our jurisdiction. That was the case with which they had to deal. The principle of the Government Amendment was broad and simple; it was a well-known principle of international law, and such laws were very dangerous things to set at defiance. If there was any well-established principle it was that a nation must confine the law relating to its own subjects to its own territorial jurisdiction, or to its own subjects beyond that jurisdiction. No nation must assume to punish the subjects of a foreign State for an offence committed against the laws of that nation outside its own jurisdiction. That was the root principle of the Government proposal. Let them see how it applied. He thought there had been some unintentional exaggeration on the other side. Reference had been made to the possibility of owners submerging the load line in their own ports and then raising the load line so as to enter our ports in accordance with our load line regulations. They were told that foreign owners derived great advantage from this. The hon. Member for Dulwich put that point. He wondered at the undisputed supremacy of British shipping if we had been carrying on our business by giving foreigners an enormous advantage. It was said that they were carrying extra tonnage as against the English shipowners. It did not seem as yet to have done us very much harm. They were told that foreigners had in this matter done their worst, and that now they could do no more, so that we had reached the full limit of the advantage which the foreign competitors could get. They were asked to draw an inference as to the condition of a vessel at the port of loading. That was a most difficult and dangerous thing to do. First of all, they were invited to punish an offence not committed within our jurisdiction, and secondly, to punish the offence founded on most uncertain inferences. How could they know with such certainty as the criminal law required the condition of the vessel at the port of loading? The evidence must not only be reasonable and probable, but they must have, before applying a criminal law, positive certainty. How could they be sure? British vessels were followed by British law wherever they went. British vessels, he must assume, did not overload at foreign ports. An hon. Gentleman opposite said that they did. If they did so they would come under the law in an inconvenient manner which he need not indicate. If foreign vessels were supposed to have overloaded how was the inference arrived at? Nobody knew in what water they loaded. [AN HON. MEMBER: The log will show.] He did not know that they could always rely upon the log. He had had a great deal to do with ships' logs, and he had had to object to them because they were always in favour of the owners. They could not be sure of the water in which a ship was loaded, and they could not be sure of the quantity loaded, or where she was loaded. If she loaded in fresh water she rose about two inches in salt water. There were various considerations which would make it most difficult to found a prosecution. It was not desirable that an offence committed outside our jurisdiction should be prosecuted within our jurisdiction when we had no proper means of proof in regard to the alleged offence. These were strong reasons, and they were reasons which would be urged by foreign Governments against the course the House was invited to take by the Grand Committee. There was no occasion to provoke retaliation, and there was no doubt at all that if we proceeded to infringe some of the well-known principles of international law it would lead to international protests and controversy, and he ventured to think that the game was not worth the candle. Hon. Members opposite said that there would be no such thing. He said there were certain to be such protests. The hon. Member for Dulwich had said, "You do it in other matters," giving as instances the shifting of grain cargoes and the loading of deck cargoes. In each of these cases the offence was gathered from what was seen in the port when the foreign ship arrived and when the cargo was in such a condition as to show that the proper conditions had not been observed. That was an offence against our law, and we punished it because it was discovered in an English port. He thought one hon. Member had said that the cargo might be shifted on the voyage. He should not like to be on board ship where there was re-shifting of a grain cargo at sea. The hon. Member also said that a deck cargo might be got rid of before getting into the port. If that was so why should they ever load it? The Government did not depart in substance from the principles of international law on which they took their stand. These considerations appeared sufficient to justify the desire of the Government to stand by the clause. It was more than a mere trade question. If it were merely a trade question the Government would desire to meet the shipowners, but it was a matter involving other considerations. It involved a question of international law which it was very much to the interests of England to maintain in all its foreign relations.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER wished to say how heartily he concurred with the hon. Member for Sunderland in the thoroughly sensible speech which he delivered. If this were a matter of law no layman would for a moment venture to enter into argument with the learned Solicitor-General. His ability as a lawyer was unquestioned and unquestionable. But he would like to ask any shipowner whether he ever heard such a complete exhibition of ignorance as was afforded by the speech just delivered. Any shipowner would confirm absolutely what had fallen from the hon. Member for Dulwich. It was perfectly easy to calculate how many tons of coal would be consumed on a voyage by a steamer coming to this country. There was no practical difficulty, whatever might be the legal point involved. It could be done, and where there was a will there was a way. As to retaliation, did the Solicitor-General mean to say that he had had information from foreign Governments that if we altered our regulations they were going to do something violent to us? He believed it was an exaggeration on the part of the Solicitor-General. He believed there had been no such communication. In years long gone by he had required to consider the application of the laws of the United States to our ships. What the Americans then told the Cunard Company, with which at the time he was connected, was this: "We do not care at all about your English law. You are trading with the United States, and when you come here you must comply with the United States regulations." The Solicitor-General said that it could not be done. But the principle was already applied by us in regard to grain and deck cargoes, and foreign countries also applied their regulations to us as they were perfectly entitled to do, and as we ought to be able to do so by this Bill. The extent to which ships really owned by British shipowners were now sailing under foreign flags was considerable. In connection with the port of Liverpool he could give the names of at least half a dozen firms of high standing, each of which had a considerable portion of their fleet sailing under foreign flags. What would their position be? They would be able to load these ships under foreign flags more deeply than their own precisely similar ships under the British flag; and it was a perfectly anomalous and wrong position. The hon. Member for Stockton, who had had considerable experience, assured him that there was no such thing as a general German load-line. Now as regarded this Bill. The President of the Board of Trade rather assumed the position of desiring to protect British shipowners against themselves. Would the right hon. Gentleman permit the shipowners to say that they knew how to manage their own business, and how their interests were affected? What was the key of the position? The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade desired to be fair; but in this matter he did not seem to be his own master. He could not conceive that the President of the Board of Trade himself believed in the Government method. The right hon. Gentleman knew as well as he did that, although the Solicitor-General might be right if the question at issue were entirely one of law, that from a business point of view the story which he had told to the House was absolute nonsense.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said he wanted to know where they stood. The opinion given by the President of the Board of Trade was, as the hon. Member for Dulwich had said, not the opinion of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, nor that of the Select Committee which sat in 1905, of which the Parliamentary Secretary was a Member. That Committee unanimously reported against the present Amendment of the Government. Nor had they heard the opinion of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury who, perhaps, with more discretion than the hon. Member for Dewsbury, had absented himself from this debate, but whose opinion had been equally strongly expressed against that of the President of the Board of Trade. The hon. Member for North Monmouthshire agreed to the Report of the Select Committee of 1905, which decided in favour of the clause as it stood before the Government proposed this Amendment. He thought it just as well to recall what took place in the Grand Committee. It had been represented that this matter was only carried by one or two votes. He had looked into the record and found that the Ayes were twenty-two and the Noes fourteen; and of those twenty-two, no less than sixteen were Members who generally supported the Government. That was extremely important as showing that there were two sides to this question; and he thought it was rather unfortunate that after the very able speech of the hon. Member for Dulwich, the Government should persist in the Amendment without any change of any kind. After all, what they desired was equality of treatment for British and foreign ships, and the paramount reason for that was the safety of human life. If they were going, by this Amendment, to allow ships which ran some risk in endangering human life to start from foreign ports with complete impunity, they were belying their own principles, and not doing their utmost to enforce this question of safety as they ought to do. After all, there was a dispensing power in Clause 70, and if serious difficulty should arise, no doubt that dispensing power could be used. But if they ran away from their own principles in regard to load-line regulations they would never get foreign nations to adopt those load-line regulations which they so much desired, and that would be much to the detriment of our own trade. Bearing in mind this dispensing power, and that two members of the Government were of opinion that ships over-loading in a foreign port should be subject to a fine when they came here, he thought they were more likely to secure an international load-line if they adhered to the clause as it stood than if they refrained from passing it merely through fear of foreign retaliation.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he had not the Report of the Select Committee by him, but he had consulted his hon. friend the Member for Dewsbury, who told him that he never agreed to anything of the kind, but, on the contrary, that he protested against it. He was assured that the Report did not bear out the interpretation given by the hon. Gentleman.

MR. EVELYN CECIL said he apologised to the Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board if he had misrepresented him. This was a matter of importance, and he thought it was very important that the House should not be left to merely official guidance on this matter. He thought that the shipowners of the country had a right to give their opinion upon it, and that it was desirable that the hon. Member for Dewsbury should say a few words on the subject. He did not believe foreign complications would arise if they declared their opinion in regard to over-loading. He thought they would go a step further towards inducing foreign nations to accept our view of the safety of human life, and to adopt an international load-line, which had been admitted to be so desirable, if the Government Amendment was not accepted.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said the Solicitor-General had declared that they could not expect this House to pass a law to punish an alien for an offence not committed in this country. That, however, was not the position taken up by the High Court Justiciary sitting in full bench in Edinburgh some time ago, for that Court punished the Swedish master of a Swedish ship for an offence committed outside the three mile limit.

SIR W. ROBSON thought the question was whether the three mile limit was surrounded by the coast of the main land.

MR. ASHLEY said he believed it was laid down by the High Court of Justiciary that we had the power to make regulations punishing offences committed within that area.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham) asked whether it was not the fact that, under the new regulations, the load line for British ships had been lowered to a depth of 12½ inches from the original load line. He had personally watched both British and foreign ships going out of ports of the United Kingdom, and he was inclined to believe that the foreigners took a great deal more care, in so far as the lives of crews were concerned, than British shipowners. He was sure that this winter when British ships were crossing the Western Ocean in wintry weather, it would be a serious reflection on those who recommended that British ships should be submerged to such an extent as the Board of Trade allowed. He was, however, convinced of the international difficulty in regard to this matter, and for that reason he was going to vote with the Government on this occasion.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said that if this Amendment was carried, the Government would be in a very curious position. In the first place they would have gone back from the position they took on the First Reading of the Bill—that British and foreign ships should be treated alike in our ports. In the second place, they would have placed a statutory disability on British ships as compared with foreign ships, although he knew it was said that that had been done before. In the third place, which was worst of all, it would put forth to the world that the only reason why we were treating foreigners' ships better than our own was that we were afraid. Surely the British Government when they felt that their proposals were just and right, need not be afraid of any foreign power. He should think that the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain need not submit to paltry considerations such as those which had been laid before it.

*MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) said the question turned principally upon a question of fact, namely, whether or not it was difficult to find out what was the state of loading of a ship when she left the foreign port. The Solicitor-General had said that one could not find out what the loading of a vessel was when she left the foreign port, but he, as a practical engineer, assured the House that there was no difficulty whatever in so doing. There was no difficulty in the case of a sailing ship if she did not call at any port on her way to this country, as she arrived here practically as she was when she left the foreign port. The steam vessel, it was true, arrived in a different condition from that in which she left her port of loading, but even there there was practically no difficulty whatever in telling what was the state of the vessel at the time she was loaded. The right hon. Gentleman had declared that he was sincere in his desire not to give protection to foreign vessels, and he congratulated him upon his sincerity. But if he was sincere in his desire not to treat the foreign vessel better than the British, there was no difficulty in making regulations that would carry out what he desired. A further question which concerned the prestige of the Government arose at this point. They were not dealing with a majority in Committee of twenty-two against fourteen, but with a Government majority of sixteen against fourteen on the other side. The facts that he had advanced were strong facts which could not be got over. He thought they were all of opinion that when statements of fact were made they should truly, represent facts, and he repeated that the arguments which had been advanced on the other side did not displace those statements of fact. On the contrary, right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the other side had accepted their facts, and they had reason to contemplate with satisfaction the way in which they had dealt with them and with their arguments.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon) said that not one of the categorical statements made by his hon. friend the Member for Dulwich had been impugned up to the present time. He did not know whether all the hon. Members present had followed the course of the discussion from the beginning, but the hon. and learned Solicitor-General, he might remind the House, had claimed to have adduced very strong reasons against those which had been brought forward by his hon. friend the Member for Dulwich. What were those reasons which had been advanced by the hon. and learned Solicitor-General? Not one them stood as a valid reason against the arguments which had been brought forward by the Opposition. They had been told that under the Government Amendment preference would not be given to foreign ships to the extent of 300 or 400 tons of coal on the single voyage, but his hon. friend had shown that if the coal consumed on ship for the single trip was taken—the coal consumed not on the long voyages but on the shorter voyages—the argument simply resolved itself into this—they were not quibbling about 300 or 400 tons of coal but about the principle—that, taking the case of a ship on the round voyage, by the Government Amendment preference would be given to the foreign ship to the extent of 300 or 400 tons of coal on each voyage. As his hon. friend had shown, on the round voyages, therefore, this was an immense bonus to foreign ships. That argument, which was made early in the discussion, had not been displaced and still stood. They had been told that it was the intention of the Government to save life by these load line conditions, but they were further told that when they were face to face with this international difficulty with regard to incoming ships they could not make that argument effective. That argument did not, it appeared, stand at all. There was not one single valid argument advanced by the President of the Board of Trade or by the Solicitor-General that could be taken into account. Under Clause 3 it was provided that these provisions should so apply, that an offence could be committed in a foreign country, and it was not essential, as contended by the Solicitor-General, that the offence should be continued in one of our own ports. That was perfectly clear. A ship might discharge a portion of her cargo in a foreign port, and if that ship came here she might under Section 3 as it was drawn be held liable for an offence committed in a foreign port. But they were told now that they could not possibly trace the offence to a foreign port and that there were no means of finding out whether the offence had been committed abroad or not. His hon. friend the Member for Liverpool had stated what everybody knew perfectly well, that it was possible to detect this by calculation. They had heard the suggestion made, in regard to these calculations, as to whether the vessels were loaded in salt or fresh water, but that did not seem to have any application, because British ships might be loaded in salt or fresh water, and the same difference might occur. The same considerations would apply to the vessels of different nations whether they loaded in fresh or salt water. Then they were told that they did not know what happened to a vessel in the course of a voyage. But, as his hon. friend the Member for Liverpool, pointed out, they all knew perfectly well what happened, because they had the ship's log. He thought the hon. and learned Solicitor-General took the technical objection that the ship's log was not evidence.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In certain cases it is not.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said everybody knew that that was so, but the ship's log could be quoted in regard to the expenditure of 300 or 400 tons of coal, and there was not a port in England in which they could not test the amount of coal which the vessel had on board. There was no port in England where they could not fix the reduction in the quantity of coal on board and ascertain the actual condition in which the vessel left the foreign port. But there was another question. They were told that it was impossible for the owner of a foreign ship to comply with our regulations because he would not know to what port the ship was destined. But an hon. Member speaking on behalf of the shipping trade had said there was no difficulty on that point. It had been pointed out that there were a number of places like Madeira at which such ships would have to touch and at which they would have to comply with our regulations, of which they had no knowledge. That sounded very plausible and very reasonable, but how did it correspond with the provisions of the Bill? Was it not the fact that no foreign grain ship under this Bill was to be affected adversely? He was in Falmouth a little time ago and saw fifteen great grain ships, only two of which were British, waiting for orders, and if the contention of the hon. Member was right, and the provisions of Section 3 were applied to the foreigners, they should be inflicting an intolerable hardship upon the foreigners because they did not know our regulations. In addition to all this he thought the international reason which had been raised was only a bogey. If it was not a bogey, if it was a reality at all which they had to face, it had been disposed of by the hon. Member for Liverpool and other hon. Members on that side of the House. They had shown that that argument had gone, and therefore they had not to face the argument that other nations would be so unreasonable as to enforce upon this country regulations other than those which we were enforcing upon our own shipping. He did not think we should be wise to penalise our own shipping because we were afraid of any such consequence. They were told that this load line question was so important as affecting safety of life that they must impose very severe penalties upon every British ship that came into a British port, and upon every British ship that came out of a British port; but while they were to penalise British ships coming into a British port under certain conditions, they were not to penalise foreign ships. They knew that regulations of this kind limited trade, limited cargo, and had the effect of driving trade out of British ships into foreign ships, but they were told that the object of these regulations was to ensure the safety of life at sea. The moment, however, international difficulties appeared, questions in regard to the safety of life were not insisted upon, and they gave away the principle in regard to incoming ships and applied it only to out-going ships. They were dealing with what was said to be an offence, and the point of international law which the Solicitor-General talked about was not the real point. The point was whether they were going to allow these shipowners to jeopardise the lives of the men in their employ who started out upon these voyages. He failed to see that there had been one valid argument from start to finish advanced by the President of the Board of Trade or the Solicitor-General in support of the position which the Government were taking up. One more argument had been advanced. They were told that this was the position which found favour by a majority of one upstairs. That was entirely erroneous. It found favour by a large majority, and by a majority which, for the purposes of this particular issue might be said in regard to a large proportion of it to be composed of hon. Members on the opposite side of the House, who naturally would have a tendency to support the view of the President of the Board of Trade. He thought he had made good his case that they had come back to the principles laid down in the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Dulwich, and that they were now going to act in the face of the decision of the Committee upstairs, in the face of the warm declarations of the President of the Board of the Trade on the introduction of the Bill, and that upon a perfectly illusory ground they were going to set aside provisions for the safety of life on ships coming to our ports.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) said the right hon. Gentleman had overlooked the fact that this Bill did enormously improve the position of the British ship-owner and that the foreign ships in our ports would be prevented and stopped altogether from leaving them overladen. He had also overlooked the fact that we were applying other regulations for the safety of vessels. When the right hon. Gentleman said they were giving away the whole case, he was not gauging accurately what he was talking about. At the end of the Report of the Committee would be found a long list of foreign vessels which arrived in British ports overladen, and were observed by the Board of Trade. In that long list there was absolutely not a single vessel which left her port with 400 tons more aboard than she could have carried if she had been subject to British regulations. In each of the cases where a vessel arrived at a British port seriously overladen the new Bill would have caught it in the British port. The first case in the list was of a vessel leaving a foreign port 405 tons overladen and arriving at a British port 215 tons overladen. Under the Bill she would have been caught on arrival in the British port and penalised accordingly. There was only 180 tons in question and not 400.

MR. BONAR LAW said that Mr. Howell, the representative of the Board of Trade, pointed out in giving the evidence that the class of boats which the Board of Trade had given there must be for relatively short voyages, and if the hon. Member took the last ten cases mentioned in the list he would find that even in those short voyages exactly half were overladen under the conditions of the Bill.

*MR. RUNCIMAN: When the hon. Gentleman used the figure 400 he was, as he often is in the matter of figures, strictly inaccurate.

MR. BONAR LAW: What I said was that a tramp steamer carrying about 5,000 tons coming from America would burn about 400 tons. Am I wrong?

*MR. RUNCIMAN said he had looked carefully through the list and he did not see the case of a single vessel from an American port which was caught by the Board of Trade or was observed by them. These cases from his personal knowledge did not occur in the American trade. There had been no serious complaint of foreign vessels arriving from America being seriously overladen. When the hon. Gentleman quoted the American case he was going outside the range of practical experience. The next case was that of a vessel which was 570 tons overladen in a foreign port, and 310 tons overladen when she arrived in the British port. Here again the Bill would have caught the master and punished him. The next case was that of a vessel 370 tons overladen in a foreign port and 255 tons overladen on arrival in the British port. There again under the Bill it would have been caught. They could go through the whole range of these cases and see that there was not a single case where there had been 400 tons difference between the amount she would have been able to load under the British flag and the amount she could load under the foreign flag. He would give the hon. Gentleman the reason why foreign grain and timber trade vessels could not come under his 400 figure. These vessels carrying wood, cotton, grain or phosphate, were not so constructed nowadays as to come across with sufficient bunkers for the passage and be just above their Plimsoll mark on arrival and yet leave a margin of 400 tons. For that reason if for no other it was absurd to quote the American case as justifying the claim put forward. That was one statement of the hon. Gentleman which he refuted. The second was the suggestion that the Report really included the words which they now sought to strike out of the Bill. The words in the Report were—

> "We recommend that power be given to the Government to apply by Order in Council in the ports of the United Kingdom."

He remembered those words particularly because he was strongly against their insertion, as also was the evidence of the Board of Trade. If these words were of such great importance why did not the hon. Member put them into the Report he drafted?

MR. BONAR LAW said he was astonished at the hon. Gentleman misunderstanding the meaning of those words, which were—

> "We recommend that power be given to the Government to apply in the ports of the United Kingdom."

Where else could they apply them? They were able to apply them only to those ships because no other ships came within their jurisdiction. They wished to apply the British rules as to the load line to merchant ships of any country which did not comply with the rules as to loading in precisely the same way as British boats. They specifically recommended that every ship which entered our ports should be subjected in every respect to the same laws as British vessels.

*MR. RUNCIMAN had no doubt the words they now sought to exclude from the Bill were not meant to be inserted, and after the evidence given before the Committee he would have voted against their being inserted in the Report. If the words were so important it was a great pity the hon. Member did not make them clearer. This was a matter largely of expediency. He suggested that those who represented the shipping industry in the House should not complicate affairs abroad for British shipowners. There was no reason why they should not take with gratitude all that the Bill gave the shipping industry. The point raised was a trivial one. In the list given by the Committee it meant only an average of sixty-six tons of bunkers. The matter was really infinitesimal compared with the great question they were now discussing, and hon. Members would be well advised not to dwell upon it longer.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) said the hon. Gentleman had concluded his speech with a reference to the great question they were now discussing. After listening to him he was at a loss to know what great question the hon. Gentleman was now discussing, but if he might without offence suggest it to the hon. Member, a little more courtesy to those who had not been discourteous would facilitate the debate.

*MR. RUNCIMAN said he was not and had no intention of being discourteous.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was glad to hear the hon. Gentleman's disclaimer, but he thought when the hon. Member saw, as he would, exactly what he had said, he would find he had used words that went beyond his intention. As to the Amendment itself, the allegation of the hon. Gentleman was that no serious case of overloading of the kind that would be excluded by these words had been observed by the Board of Trade or had been recorded in the schedule of the Report. The reason why it was not observed or reported had been explained by the Chairman of the Committee. But if it were true that this danger was an infinitesimal danger as the hon. Gentleman had said, and that ships were not overloaded in that way, what became of the objection of the Solicitor-General to the inclusion of the words? The Solicitor-General objected to the inclusion of the words because they were going to penalise foreign shipowners and punish them for doing nothing. The hon. Gentleman had destroyed the case which the Solicitor-General had built up with such elaboration. But surely the case was already destroyed by the Government words in Section 3. They were absolutely unable to show that they would not do in Section 3 what they were now begging the House not to do in Section 1. His hon. friend beside him had not failed to recognise all the improvements the Government were making by the Bill. They recognised them and welcomed them gladly, but they did desire to urge the Government not to whittle away their own good work. Here was a provision inserted by the Grand Committee in consonance with the objects of the Bill, carrying out the same object, the fundamental object of the Bill, the protection of life at sea, and guaranteeing the British shipowners against competition carried into British ports on lines they were not allowed to pursue. Here was a provision strictly germane to the objects of the Bill, carrying out those objects, filling up the gap left by the Government, and exactly parallel with other provisions in the Bill as introduced by the right hon. Gentleman, on which occasion he said he thought a Bill of that kind ought to be moulded by a Grand Committee and not by the desire of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman had left the matter with full liberty to the Grand Committee to mould the Bill. The Grand Committee had acted with the liberty granted to it. It had improved the Bill, largely with the assistance of the right hon. Gentleman's own supporters. He made an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. Let him leave his supporters free to exercise their judgment as they were left to exercise it in Grand Committee. If the right hon. Gentleman did that he had no hesitation in saying they would insist on these words being retained.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick) said that while he had no desire to see foreign ships penalised, he had no desire whatever to see the foreigner get undue protection in his endeavour to compete with British shipowners. The argument that day had to a large extent circled round the question of the load line, and it was only when those arguments were in progress that he became informed that the British shipowners at present had undue preference as against the foreign shipowners. [Cries of "Where?"] They would see before he finished. The late Government before they left office appointed a Committee to go into the question of "load line," with the result that now British ships had been freed so much from the old Plimsoll line that 2,000,000 tons in excess of the existing regulations had been carried. He had seen a British tramp steamer trading in winter time across the Western Ocean on which the Plimsoll mark had been raised seven inches, and he understood there were some steamers on which the freeboard was decreased by twelve inches, which meant at least 170 tons. He was credibly informed that the class of vessels that took advantage of this were vessels that were ships of twelve years old and upwards. He had his doubts whether this winter would not tell a tale, and whether lives would not be lost; if they were lost, through ships being overloaded according to Act of Parliament, then the guilt should be brought home to those who appointed that Committee, and appointed it quietly and privately without the knowledge of the House. Although he was altogether in favour of putting the British ship and the foreign ship on a footing of equality, taking the debate on the whole, he must vote in support of the Government on this occasion.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said some difference of opinion had arisen with regard to the wording of the Report of the Load Line Committee. His recollection was certainly that the question of bunker coal was very closely considered by the Committee, and in his own mind, there was no doubt that the difficulty of putting on restrictions was too great to be faced. He certainly would have been very glad if it had been possible to secure the objects which some hon. Gentlemen had been aiming at, but he thought the recommendation applied to vessels in British ports without extending to ships of other nations in foreign ports. That was his interpretation of it, and he was clear in his own mind that the Committee were very generally of opinion that it was impossible to enforce the regulations.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes, 313. (Division List No. 320.)

## AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart

Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingham
Cooper, G. J.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Williamson A.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Samuel Roberts and Mr. Ashley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J.(Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Invernesssh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George

Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S;
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Macdonald. J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charle E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W'Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sutherland)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) moved an Amendment with the object of extending the provisions of the Bill to British India and the Crown Colonies. He expressed his gratitude to the President of the Board of Trade for his most excellent measure and for so well receiving the representations of those who were interested. At the same time he ventured to hope that the measure would be extended throughout the British Empire, appreciating as they did the fact that it was a great measure of safety. He had not included in the Amendment a reference to the self-governing Colonies, not because he did not believe that those Colonies should be included, but because he thought that on representation they would be only too pleased to come into a joint regulation with ourselves and to join in the measures of safety now proposed, and also because he thought they might safely leave to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies one measure which he could bring forward in the Colonial Conference which he believed would be heartily welcomed by all. It would be much better if they left that matter to the Conference than to attempt to pass any Resolution to impose a clause which the Colonies might consider an interference with their principles of government. He had not, however, omitted a reference to the Crown Colonies or British India in the Amendment, because he hoped that there existed in the minds of the right hon. Gentlemen who occupied the front seat opposite that unity of purpose and design as regarded the general safety of the British Empire which ought to exist, and that these provisions which came before the House in the form of Bills and had been duly discussed and accepted as principles ought to be universal. Therefore, he thought they might consider that when the President of the Board of Trade brought forward a measure of inestimable boon to those who sailed on the seas, he had the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for India with him in approving such a measure of general utility. When they had accepted this principle of general utility for the saving of life he thought they might rightly and properly say to them, "If you consider it right and proper for the United Kingdom, we ask you to accept and extend it to British India and to the Crown Colonies," all of whom, he thought, were subject to what this House might pass as measures containing principles of safety. Therefore, he did ask the House to establish the principle of safety by including the Amendment. Further, he asked that they would add to this clause our splendid dependency of India, so that, as regarded British shipping, while there would still be left the self-governing Colonies, which, he hoped, the Under-Secretary to the Colonies would bring into this general measure, there would be no other part of the British dominions which would not be subject to the great principle of safety embodied in this Bill. He looked to the hon. Member below the gangway for his approval and that of his followers. There was no doubt that on a question of money we should in this case place the British shipowner on an equality with the foreign shipowner. He was an unfortunate shipowner himself, and he must say that he considered he was deserving of every consideration. On the question of money undoubtedly the British shipowner was very heavily handicapped. When a British steamer went from Rangoon or some other port of a British dependency, and a German ship sailed from the same port to Antwerp or some other foreign port, there was a difference of 10 per cent., so that on a freight of 15s. a foreigner could quote 1s. 6d. per ton less and yet make the same amount as the British shipowner. Therefore, naturally the shipowner at the foreign port got a great advantage. So that if they accepted this principle they would be putting the British shipowner into a better position. But he did not ask them to consider the question of £ s. d. The great point they had to look at was life against filthy lucre. They ought to put life upon the highest elevation, and if they could, by an Act, Amendment, or Resolution of this House increase the number of sailors able to sail in safety, he thought they had a right and a compulsion upon them to do it. Further, unless there was some strong objection as regarded the powers of this House to deal with the Crown Colonies and India they ought to accept the position of saying that what was good for the United Kingdom was good for India and the Colonies; and he hoped that they would at all times, as far as possible in this great Empire, consider the principles of safety before the principles of money.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby) seconded the Amendment. It seemed to him that what was good enough for the United Kingdom should certainly be good enough for any of our Crown or self-governing Colonies. The

Crown Colonies, to which the Amendment applied, had a very large shipping exchange with the United Kingdom, and if it were necessary for ships using British ports to have a load line, surely it was also necessary that the ships that used the ports of our Crown Colonies should be under similar obligations. He should think the House of Commons would be very wise if they endeavoured to apply the provisions of this Bill wherever possible throughout the King's dominions, because it was many years before they could expect or hope to have another Merchant Shipping Bill, and he suggested to the President of the Board of Trade that he now had a great opportunity—an opportunity that would probably not present itself to him again—of making his magnificent measure very much more serviceable than it otherwise could be, by applying it to these particular dominions. It represented an advantage of something like 10 per cent. to the ships. He thought they should endeavour, in this House at least, to claim equal rights for all persons using and having the advantage of British ports. That was common ground upon which they should try to work out this question. Why should the House of Commons, above all others, be ready to give foreign ships a 10 per cent. advantage over English ships? He was very much delighted when he found his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade was considering the question of protecting British interests in any form when he admitted the necessity of a load line being applied to foreign ships coming into British ports. By accepting this Amendment and applying the same law to the Crown Colonies, the House would apply this principle of equal justice. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade would give this question kindly and generous consideration, and that notwithstanding all the great ability of the learned Solicitor General they would not have any necessity for a legal argument on the question, because, after all, the Amendment only proposed to extend the provision to the Crown Colonies, and if the matter was left to the good judgment of the President of the Board of Trade he believed it would be adopted. Personally he was sorry that the Amendment did not go further. He thought it should have gone the whole length of including the self governing Colonies, but, as his hon. friend said, this would be considered at the Colonial Conference among a multitude of other things. He was content to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'United Kingdom,' and insert the words 'British Isles, or in British India, or in any Crown Colony.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE did not differ from the hon. Member who moved this Amendment in his contention that probably it would be desirable that this Bill should apply to India and the Crown Colonies. But his difficulty with regard to the Amendment was this. The hon. Member was endeavouring by an Amendment proposed on the Report Stage of the Bill to establish a new precedent of a very grave constitutional kind. He proposed that we should legislate here for India and the Crown Colonies. Now that would be a great departure from former practice. He thought that up to the present, as the hon. Member knew perfectly well, the Viceroy in Council legislated for India, and in regard to the Crown Colonies legislation was by means of Ordinance. So far as the Merchant Shipping Laws were concerned they had hitherto pretty well followed the legislation passed in this House. It was not for him to express an opinion as to what they should do, but he should think that they would follow the legislation which we passed. The Government could not accept an Amendment of this sort; there would be protests from India and all the Crown Colonies. His hon. friend had said that he should have extended it to the self-governing Colonies. That would have been a most dangerous thing, and he was surprised that such an Imperialist as he was should have suggested it. He would, however, bring the matter to the notice of the Colonial Office and the India Office. He trusted the hon. Member would be satisfied with that promise, and not press the Amendment.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he had an open mind on this question, as he had on that which had just been discussed. He spent about half a day trying to get the shipowners to rally to his support to carry this Amendment, and not one of them had the courage to support him in Committee. As a matter of fact, seeing that he could not get any support, he had to withdraw in Committee the very Amendment the hon. Member for Liverpool was now moving. He was glad that the hon. Member looked upon this matter as one involving the safety of human life and the protection of seamen. He hoped that view would be carried through all the other clauses of the Bill. There was a clause which prohibited the engagement of foreign seamen in this country unless they could speak our language. That was to save life. He hoped that that clause would be made to apply to our Colonies, and that it would have the support not only of the hon. Member but of the shipowners. If it was good to save life by this means when engaging men at ports in the United Kingdom, it was only common sense to suppose that it would be a good thing to save life in this way when engaging foreign seamen in foreign ports. He should like the hon. Member to support him in that. He had no doubt that the President of the Board of Trade would do his best for them in this matter. He was going to give him some consolation. The self-governing Colonies would deal with the question sooner or later. As a matter of fact, he believed they were considering the matter now. He hoped he had the support of hon. Gentlemen representing shipping interests in asking that all the clauses in the Bill which had for their object the safety of the lives of men should be made applicable not only to the United Kingdom, but to our Colonies, and to places abroad generally.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said they had all heard with lively satisfaction that the President of the Board of Trade was in full sympathy with the object of the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman had promised to communicate with the Ministers who represented the great Empire of India, and the British Colonies, whether self-governing or Crown Colonies, and he believed that the method the President of the Board of Trade had suggested was preferable to the method of direct legislation in this House. His hon. friend who moved the Amendment himself felt that it would be unusual and inexpedient for the House to legislate in respect of the self-governing Colonies. At the Colonial Conference there would be an opportunity of conferring on the matter, and that would be more in accordance with precedent. The self-governing Colonies should be left to decide this matter for themselves. With regard to the great Empire of India and our Crown Colonies, we were in a kind of perpetual conference with them. The Secretary for India was always able to confer with the Government of India, and he thought it was inexpedient for the House of Commons to attempt to legislate directly for the great Empire of India.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said the President of the Board of Trade in stating that the Amendment raised a great constitutional question had forgotten what passed upstairs, for they had just heard from the hon. Member for Middlesbrough that he moved an Amendment in Committee which was almost identical with that now before the House.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: He withdrew it.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said that did not alter the point. The question was raised in Committee, but the right hon. Gentleman spoke as if this was the first time the matter had been brought within his ken. They were all obliged for the courteous reception of the Amendment, to which they attached very great importance. He hoped the communications made to the India Office and the Colonial Office would not have the same fate as so many communications had had, namely, to find a happy resting place in the pigeonholes of the Department to which they were addressed. He hoped it would not be long before they were able to ask the right hon. Gentleman to lay on the Table of the House the opinions of the Crown Colonies and of the Government of India, and to state what steps he proposed to take in accordance with those recorded opinions on this great matter.

* MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that as far as this Amendment aimed at uniformity in the shipping laws of the British Empire it had his support. In Committee he had moved that a certain step towards uniformity should be taken, namely, by enacting that no

Colony should by internal legislation affecting trade conflict with the general maritime law of this country. But he did think after what his hon. friend had said that this was not a convenient moment for discussing principles of this kind. It might be convenient that he should say at this stage of the proceedings that, having got rid of one of the most contentious matters so far as the shipping interests were concerned, the Amendments which remained on the paper, some put down by the Government and others standing in his name, were not contentious Amendments. The history of this Bill had been one of give and take. While reserving perfect liberty of action in the case of the new clauses which did contain highly contentious matter, he was able to say that the Amendments which remained were, if not matters of bargain between the shipping interests and the Government, at any rate not matters that were more than what might be considered fair give and take.

*Mr. DAVID MACIVER said he had very great sympathy with this Amendment. He was surprised to hear his hon. friend the Member for the Everton Division describe himself as a shipowner. The hon. Member might have had the misfortune to own shares in ships, but he could not regard him as a shipowner so far as the management of shipping was concerned. If he had been concerned in the management of ships he would not have given such a glowing panegyric to this Bill. He was perfectly certain that the shipowners would not agree with what his hon. friend had said about it. There was another point that he wished to speak about. It was said that British shipowners were an easy first as compared with foreigners and that the Board of Trade returns showed they were more than holding their own in the commerce of the world. He would like hon. Members who believed that to be the case to take up the advertisement sheet of *The Times* newspaper and see how foreign ships competed with British ships in Indian and Colonial ports. He would like them to go to Leadenhall Street and see——

*Mr. SPEAKER: These matters are not relevant to the Amendment before the House.

*Mr. DAVID MACIVER maintained that these foreigners would be still further enabled to enter into unfair competition with British shipowners if this Bill passed in the shape proposed by the Government. There was a very real unfair competition in our Indian and Colonial ports between British and foreign ships, and unless foreign and British ships were to be placed on equal terms, and unless the advantages which the foreign ships at present enjoyed in these ports were taken from them, our supremacy, already threatened, would soon be a thing of the past. He supported the Amendment.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. He thanked the President of the Board of Trade for the expression of his views; and he understood the right hon. Gentleman would bring the subject before the Secretary of State for India and the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) moved to leave out Clause 3. He desired to enter a protest, as he had had to do on previous occasions, against the form of legislation which the Bill so largely adopted. In fact, this clause gave a very good example of the kind of thing which was done repeatedly. It asked the legislature to read into this Bill provisions from previous legislation without any indication of the effect of that legislation. They had had a discussion on an Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Elgin and Nairn, and he was sure that not one single Member, except perhaps a lawyer or a shipowner, had the slightest conception of what was meant by it. It was impossible for hon. Members of this House to pretend to know what, in these circumstances, they were doing. Why should not hon. Members be put in a position in which they could apprehend what was laid before them? He submitted to the Government that the very least they could do was to print and circulate the Act which it was proposed to amend alongside the Amendment proposed. Then they could turn to the old Act itself and see the effect of the proposed changes. He ventured to say that no Member not actually connected with shipping knew what was the effect of the first four lines of this clause—

> "And also to the provisions of Section 451, so far as that section provides for the delivery of the notice mentioned therein to the proper officer of customs in the United Kingdom, and the master, agent, or owner of the ship, shall be liable accordingly."

What idea did that convey to any hon. Member not familiar with the subject? He submitted that that was not a proper form of legislation, and he asked the Government very seriously to consider whether something could not be done to make in these cases proposed amending legislation intelligible.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) seconded the Motion. To an ordinary layman a clause such as this was, he said, entirely unintelligible. Consolidation of all the Acts referring to a particular subject seemed to be urgent, so as to do away with all legislation by reference. Most of them were quite unable, from want of time, to look up all the various provisions referred to in previous Acts of Parliament; and it was most desirable that there should be placed in their hands in some convenient form, the provisions to which reference was made in the amending Bill.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 10, to leave out Clause 3."

Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he quite agreed with the noble Lord that it was very undesirable to legislate by reference, but it was almost inevitable under present Parliamentary conditions. This was one of the difficulties felt by every Government; but he was sure that the members of the late Government would admit that the practice of legislation by reference had increased very considerably under their *régime*. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh, oh."] He had watched their proceedings with considerable scrutiny. [An HON. MEMBER on the OPPOSITION benches: "You were the justification."] If the noble Lord would look further he would see that they had done a great deal in this Bill to simplify and codify the law in regard to the shipping of grain cargo, and they were doing the same thing in regard to timber loading on ships. There were many Bills more open to the criticism of the noble Lord than the present. All that the clause said was that the precautions to be taken under the Act of 1904 against the shifting of grain cargo in British ships should apply to foreign ships. He did not see how it was possible to put that in a better and clearer way than it was done under the present Bill; but generally he agreed with the noble Lord as to the undesirability of legislation by reference.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) thought that his noble friend might have put his case more strongly even than he had. The noble Lord might have gone further when he said that the Legislature was by this system of legislation by reference asked to read into a new measure provisions from previous Acts of Parliament. It was not the Legislature alone that had to do so, but the Judicature also. In the House they had some means of arriving at what was meant by the Bills they passed, but the Judicature had not. That was one of the inexorable conditions under which they worked; but there was a method of relief—by consolidation—and he wished to know whether hon. Gentlemen opposite had any intention of trying to get that improvement. The Government were at the present moment considering and elaborating measures for the amendment of the rules of procedure of this House, and what better opportunity could they have for facilitating the passage of a non-controversial consolidating measure?

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) welcomed the noble Lord's Amendment. The noble Lord was a pupil of his father's in this matter. He had before reminded the House of the excellent advice given by the late Marquess of Salisbury of the evil effect of legislation by reference. He greatly regretted that the noble Lord had been overcome by the soft-sawder of the President of the Board of Trade, and he hoped the noble Lord would soon get the advantage of a lighter place and not let the right hon. Gentleman out of it until they had dealt with this matter.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) suggested that the Acts quoted and the Amendments proposed should be printed in juxtaposition for the use of Members. The changes to be made would then be understood by everyone who ran and read. Would the right hon. Gentleman give them an assurance on that point?

LORD R. CECIL said he was somewhat impressed by the argument that it would not be right to strike out Clause 3. He thought it was a valuable clause, and with the permission of the House he would withdraw his Amendment, although he was not in any way mollified by the soft sawder of the right hon. Gentleman.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALCARRES, in formally moving to omit Clause 5, which provided that the Act should come into operation on 1st October, 1908, or such other day, not being more than twelve months later, as the Board of Trade might appoint, said it would be a great convenience to many persons in the country and around him if the President of the Board of Trade would make some general statement as to when it was probable that the Act would be brought into operation.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that if the hon. Member looked at the Bill he would find that it would come into operation at different times. He could not make a general statement at this stage, but he was willing to consider the question of making one later.

LORD BALCARRES, regretting that the right hon. Gentleman could not make a more precise statement, withdrew his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD R. CECIL moved to leave out the words in Clause 6, "under stress of weather or for repairs." He did not understand the purpose for which those words were put in. The clause provided that nothing in the foregoing provisions of this part of the Act should affect any foreign ship not bound to a port in the United Kingdom which came into any port of the United Kingdom under stress of weather or for repairs, or for any purpose other than the purpose of embarking or landing passengers, or taking in or discharging cargo or taking in bunker coal. The danger of putting in these words was that they would confine the general words of the clause to occasions of a different character from those which were mentioned in the general words. If it was not desired to confine the general words, then these particular words were unnecessary, and if it was desired to confine the general words, then some such words, or others with a similar purpose, should be inserted in other portions of the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: Does any hon. Member second?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I do not object to the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 4, to leave out the words 'under stress of weather or for repairs.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments moved—

"In page 3, line 18, to leave out the words 'to foreign ships.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 3, line 19, after the word 'Act' to insert the words 'to all foreign ships.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendments agreed to.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE moved the omission of Clause 9 for the purpose which the noble Lord had impressed upon him of moving a new clause later on in order to consolidate the Act.

Amendment agreed to.

LORD R. CECIL moved to leave out Clause 11, which seemed to him most objectionable, because it said that only seamen with a sufficient knowledge of English to understand the necessary orders should be employed upon British ships. It seemed to him that this clause would be perfectly illusory in effect. Anybody who had watched the proceedings of seamen in a foreign port would understand that foreigners gave each other the word of command in English. It was nothing unusual in Normandy, for instance, to hear one foreign gentleman who did not understand English say to another gentleman who also did not understand English, "stop." The effect of the clause was that as soon as a seaman had mastered enough of the English language to know the words of command, he could serve. The position that a seaman on board a British ship should be really familiar with the English language was intelligible, but the present clause was illusory, and he moved its omission.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) seconded.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 12, to leave out Clause 11."—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That Clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE would not have thought that the noble Lord could have got any support for his motion, because if there was one section of the Bill which upstairs and on the Second Reading was supported, and also by the Royal Commission, it was this one.

SIR GILBERT PARKER quite agreed that on the Second Reading and in the Committee there was a strong feeling that this clause should be passed because of the danger to life owing to the fact that foreign seamen did not understand the words of command in time of danger. This was shown by a report just issued by the Department of which the right hon. Gentleman was the head. He strongly urged the noble Lord to withdraw his Amendment, because the clause had been the result of long agitation in this House, and among those who understood that this precaution meant the safety of human life in the mercantile marine.

LORD R. CECIL thought his hon. friend had entirely misunderstood him. He objected that the clause would not carry out what was intended. If it was necessary to have someone on the ships to secure that the seamen should have a competent knowledge of the English language it was easy enough to enact that, but let the House know exactly what they were legislating. He would not, however, put the House to the trouble of a division on the matter.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 14, after the word 'Port' to insert 'in the British Isles or.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*).

The Amendment agreed to.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER (Stockton) moved to insert at the end of the clause, "this clause shall only apply to sailors, and not to engineers, firemen, cooks, or stewards." The House would immediately observe the drift of the Amendment. In the original Act the word "seamen" included every man on board, and if this clause was passed without their saying exactly what they meant by it it would apply not only to seamen but to men who had nothing to do with the navigation of the ship, but who were engaged down below. The whole object of the clause was simply to insure that navigation should be made more secure in future so far as the men who were navigating the ship understanding the orders given to them were concerned. He quite agreed that the ordinary seamen ought to understand the orders given, and therefore he did not object to the clause itself, but he thought the clause should explain that it only referred to deck hands, to the actual sailors, and not to men working down below such as firemen, cooks and stewards. If a captain engaged a cook or steward who could only talk French it did not matter, and it could not affect a fireman who also worked below. He hoped the House would agree with him that some such explanation as this was required. He begged to move.

MR. EVELYN CECIL, in seconding the Amendment, said there was a great deal in what his hon. friend had said. It was necessary that the word "seamen" should be defined, because otherwise it might include all sorts of persons who had nothing to do with the navigation of the vessel. He believed on men-of-war French cooks were employed, and on many merchant vessels German waiters were used. He did not know that there was any special necessity for their use, but the object of the clause was the safety of navigation, and they ought to legislate with that object, and not to include in the scope of the clause persons who had nothing to do with navigation. It could not be said that cooks and stewards had anything to do with the primary object of navigating the ship, and therefore he did not think that this clause should be left as uncertain as it was, but that some definition such as had been suggested should be inserted.

MR. SPEAKER rose to put the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER: Before you put the Amendment, Sir, may I amend it by leaving out "engineers"?

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of Clause 5 to add 'This clause shall only apply to sailors, and not to firemen, cooks, or stewards.'"—(*Sir Robert Ropner.*)

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR thought the alteration which the hon. Baronet opposite had just made in the Amendment he had proposed, at almost the eleventh hour, showed how extremely difficult it was to define the particular class of person on board ship who was concerned with its navigation. He was sorry his hon. friend did not bring this point out in the Committee upstairs, because there they had all these points fully discussed. The whole matter was thoroughly thrashed out, and finally this clause was settled in its present form. And while he quite agreed with the hon. Gentleman opposite that it did seem an anomaly to suggest that the navigation of a ship could be in any sense dependent on its cook, he thought if this House attempted now to discriminate and say to what department of a ship the safety of its navigation could be confined, it was taking a step which at all events created extreme difficulty. Speaking from the shipowners' point of view he desired to say quite frankly that though they never wanted this clause at all, and though it would give a great deal of trouble to the shipowners, yet the clause having emerged from the Committee in the form in which it now was they were content with it. He could not support an Amendment of this kind.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he could not accept any Amendment which would limit this clause. He did not think there was anyone on board ship of whom it might not be said that in emergencies he contributed to the safety of the vessel. He should have thought of all men on board a ship the man who it was most important should understand the orders given was the cook, upon whom the comfort of the passengers, if not the safety of the ship, so much depended. It was difficult to discriminate. It was important that everybody should understand the orders, and he thought the words recommended unanimously by the Committee were necessary, and that it would be a great mistake on the part of the House to try and fine down this clause.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON was rather surprised that the hon. Baronet the Member for Stockton should have endeavoured to water down this clause, which if anything required strengthening instead of weakening. He was pleased that his hon. friend should have admitted that it was only right that everybody should understand the order given, because that brought the last part of the clause into operation. When it came to manning the boats every man should be able to understand the language. Firemen with others had their stations in the lifeboat, and it would be a fine thing to have firemen in a boat who could not understand the language—men drawn from the list given in the Return issued by the Mercantile Marine Office at Cardiff, a list comprising Austrians, Brazilians, Chilians, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Germans, Greeks, Portuguese Russians, Scandinavians, Swiss, Turks, Japanese, and others. That list showed that the percentage of foreigners over British seamen was something like 65 per cent. The hon. Baronet had been very strong on the competition to which the poor shipowner was subject from the foreign shipowner, but what about the competition to which the poor sailors were subjected? Were they not to be taken into consideration? He had heard the hon. Baronet say in this House, on this Bill, that foreign seamen did not affect the case at all. But a Return from the Mercantile Marine Office at Cardiff this year showed that in cases where the wages were £3 15s. a month the number of foreigners engaged on British ships was 826, and the number of British was 1,359, but when the wages were down to £3 5s. a month the number of foreigners engaged was 1,013, and the number of British only 348.

Did not that prove very clearly that it was in consequence of lower wages that these men were employed? The objection that the hon. Baronet had to a clause of this kind was that the shipowners might be prevented from employing the lowest class of alien.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER: I do not object to the clause at all.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said that other hon. Members on the Committee would remember perfectly well that the hon. Baronet made a strong stand against it, and after being defeated he now wanted to water the effect of the clause by saying the fireman should be left out. He was surprised the hon. Baronet should argue in that line, because what was the position of a fireman in the stokehold of a ship? The engineer was in the engine room a considerable distance away, and he wanted the fireman to open the smoke-box door. How was he to convey that order unless he had a man who understood? Had he to leave the engine room to do the work himself? If so he was neglecting a very important duty by leaving his engines at a critical moment, perhaps, when he might be ordered to go full speed or half speed astern. The objection to this clause was that it did not go far enough. He thought it ought to apply to the Colonies. Here was an opportunity for those hon. Gentlemen who believed in giving protection to British labour. They might move an Amendment to say that this clause should apply to British ships engaging crews in the self-governing Colonies and otherwise, because there the colonial law could not possibly come in conflict with this, as they were dealing with British ships under the Imperial Act. What the House had done now with regard to this clause would go a long way to prevent loss of life at sea. There was no mistake that ships had been lost in consequence of having men on board who could not understand our language. He remembered a case not more than two years ago, where six lives were lost in consequence of the chief officer having to leave the bridge to go to the main deck to explain to the foreigners, who were of three different nationalities, what he wanted them to do, and whilst he was absent from his post the vessel ran into a small fishing boat and six lives were lost. A good many people had sought to exclude foreigners entirely from British ships. He had never supported that, but he said that if the foreigner came into our service he should be competent, and a man could not be competent who did not understand the orders given on his ship. In Germany they would not allow any foreigner to be employed on a German ship who could not speak and understand German. If they thought that was necessary in Germany, surely it was about time that in Great Britain, seeing the enormous increase of foreign seamen on our ships, such a clause as this should be passed into law. It would be beneficial. It would not injure the shipowners. Shipowners had an unlimited supply of British labour. A request would be made to the Government to give a grant of money to solve the unemployed problem, whereas on board our own ships could be found employment for at least another 50,000 men, which would go a long way to solve the unemployed problem if they could have the co-operation of the shipowner. Nor would it cost any more in wages. They could have them at the ordinary price; they could have them now, and he recommended shipowners in this House to take the matter into serious consideration this winter, to see if they could not do something to provide employment for the many thousands of men who were now unable to obtain work in our ports. He hoped this clause would be put into effect, his regret being that they had to wait for one year before it could come into operation. He thought it ought to come into use forthwith.

MR. BONAR LAW appealed to his hon. friend not to press the Amendment now before the House. There were two very good reasons. One was that this proposal was the unanimous recommendation of the Committee presided over by the late Sir Francis Tuke. It was one of the best Committees that ever sat, and was representative of the interests connected with shipping. The subject had been considered by all the large shipowning bodies in this country. Whether they liked it or not he could not say, but they had all accepted the proposal made by the Government, and it would be a mistake to press for more than their representatives had asked for.

*MR. HOUSTON said that, speaking as a British shipowner, he was pleased the President of the Board of Trade had resisted this Amendment. In fact he should have liked him to have gone a great deal further, and said that British subjects should be employed to the exclusion of foreigners. He thought it was a step in the right direction, and the President of the Board of Trade deserved to be complimented on his truly British instinct in connection with this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman was a Protectionist of the right sort, and he was entirely in accord with him in protecting British industries and British labour. This Amendment would lead to great confusion and might result in great danger. Very often the fireman was called upon to do work in connection, if not with the navigation of the ship, at any rate with the navigation of the ships' boats. It was true that foreign seamen might appeal to a certain class of shipowners and might be employed as cheap labour in competition with foreign ships; but speaking as an owner of liners, he was sure he was expressing the sentiment of similar owners in saying that they would prefer to employ British sailors.

MR. CLAUDE HAY was quite sure his hon. friend after listening to the appeals would withdraw his Amendment, which, in his humble opinion, struck at the root of the Bill, and defeated what they all had at heart, namely, the desire to increase the number of British seamen on British ships. He desired to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he would give an assurance that he would include within the representation to be made to the Colonial and India Offices the desirability of India and the Crown Colonies adopting the provisions of this clause. It was really part and parcel of his previous undertaking, but, at the same time, unless they have some definite undertaking on the subject, they did not quite know where they were.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will consider that.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER said that with the permission of the House he would like to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, line 23, to add the words, 'Provided that where the seaman has been allowed to sign an agreement after the date on which this section comes into force, and is discharged before a superintendent or other officer, the superintendent or officer shall note the fact on his certificate of discharge in manner directed by the Board of Trade, and a superintendent or other officer shall not under this section refuse to allow a seaman who holds a certificate so noted to sign an agreement, unless the superintendent or officer considers that there are special reasons for the refusal, and in that case he shall make a special report of the matter to the Board of Trade.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved an Amendment to Clause 15, to provide that passengers should not be carried on any deck below a deck on which cattle were carried. The object of the right hon. Gentleman's clause was, he believed, that no passengers, whether steerage or cabin, should be carried on more than one deck below the water line. If the clause were carried in its present form, that intention would be frustrated, because if they were allowed to carry passengers on a deck below the main deck, the same insanitary conditions would practically prevail on the deck below the water line as would exist on the second deck below the water line of an ordinary ship. He understood that at the present time when passengers were carried on the first deck of a cattle boat, the conditions were so insanitary and disagreeable that he was sure it would not be the wish of this House, that such a state of things should be allowed to continue.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE asked the hon. Gentleman whether he had any case in his mind as that which he referred to?

MR. ASHLEY said a friend of his who came over in one of these boats, had stated that the cattle were carried on what was called the main deck, and in fact, he himself was on the deck below that on which the cattle were, which meant that the only air that could be got into the deck where the passengers slept, was through a deck crowded with cattle.

MR. CHARLES WILSON (Hull, W.) asked if the hon. Member would kindly name the boat? [Cries of "Why?"] Because, so far as most of them in the trade knew, there were no ships which carried passengers under cattle decks.

MR. ASHLEY said if there were no cases, there could be no objection to inserting these words to make quite sure. He begged to move his Amendment.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON seconded the Amendment. He knew of ships where cattle were carried upon the upper deck, and all the foul air from the cattle came down into the steerage part of the vessel amongst the passengers. Certainly the quarters for the crew were below the level of the cattle, and anything that could be done to alter this state of things ought to be done, because it was extremely unpleasant for sailors and firemen to have to live close to cattle.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 6, line 20, at end to add the words 'or on any deck below a deck on which cattle are carried.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE did not think the mover of this Amendment had made out any case showing that the state of things which he wished to put an end to had any existence at all. Therefore, he failed to see how the insertion of these words would be of any use. He did not think they ought to insert superfluous words in this way.

MR. CLAUDE HAY thought the right hon. Gentleman was in error in saying that the matter was not one worthy of attention. His hon. friend who moved the Amendment had satisfied himself as to the case he had made out, and his view was supported by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough who was known to the whole House as an authority on the necessities of a sailor's life. Why should the case made out not be accepted, simply because his hon. friend had not given the names of the ships to which he had alluded and the particular voyages? To receive his hon. friend's statement in that way made the debate unreal and troubled the House with a lot of unnecessary details. He sincerely hoped his right hon. friend would reconsider this matter.

LORD R. CECIL did not think the Government were treating the House quite fairly in this matter. The case which had been brought forward by the hon. Member for Blackpool had been corroborated by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, and yet the right hon. Gentleman said that no case had been made out because the names of the ships had not been given. If hon. Members said that certain things had taken place that was a *prima facie* case that it was true, and it was not right for a Minister of the Crown to say that because names were not given a case had not been made out. That kind of treatment could not facilitate the progress of the Bill, and if his hon. friend went to a division on his Amendment he would support him.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that after listening to the speeches in favour of this Amendment he gathered that what was objected to was the presence of passengers below a deck carrying cattle which was below the water line. ["No, no."] If the hon. Member meant that no vessel which carried cattle in the open was to be allowed to carry passengers, then he was asking the House to insert something in the Bill which certainly ought not to be put in without the fullest consideration. Perhaps it would surprise the mover of this Amendment to hear that bad air went up and not down. Therefore, if the cattle were in the open on the upper deck no ill effects could result to the passengers below. He hoped the House would look at this matter from a practical point of view, and not hastily adopt an Amendment which had no justification, and which would prevent some of the best lines of steamers such as the "Cunard" and the "White Star" lines, which were well known for their comfort and convenience, from carrying a few cattle on deck for the purpose of feeding the passengers on board.

MR. WOLFF (Pelfast, E.) said that when the hon. Member for Middlesbrough talked about the nuisance of carrying cattle in the open on the upper deck he must have had in his mind the cargo Channel steamers, because they carried the cattle on the same level as the sailors living in the forecastle; but with reference to any ships which regularly carried passengers, to say that they were to have no cattle on the upper deck, was a very strong and a very serious Amendment to make. The hon. Member who moved this Amendment did not seem to have much knowledge of the working of ships. The carrying of cattle on the upper deck could do no harm to the passengers below, and it would be a strong measure to inflict a hardship of this kind upon shipowners to meet a case which was not of any importance. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept the Amendment.

Mr. HAVELOCK WILSON desired to clear up what seemed to be a misapprehension. The ships he referred to were those carrying cattle on the main deck near the forecastle of the men on board, and very often where the passengers were carried at the fore end of the ship. In such cases the cattle pens could not be cleaned out until the end of the voyage, and when the wind was at the stern the whole of the smell and nuisance came down into the place where the people had to live, and that was a state of things that ought not to exist.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 91; Noes, 244. (Division List No. 321.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnes, G. N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boland, John
Bowerman, C. W.
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Phillip
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Rawlinson, J. Frederick Peel
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Shackleton, David James
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh
Steadman, W. C.
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Mr. Havelock Wilson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh

Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton,Rt.Hn.Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh,S.)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T
Everett, R Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn.Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry

Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(SomersetN.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montague, E. S.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.

Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton underLyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfork)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR moved as an Amendment to add words to Clause 23, providing that if any seaman wilfully wasted or destroyed any provisions furnished in accordance with that section, he should be liable on summary conviction to forfeit out of his wages a sum not exceeding one day's pay for each offence. The Bill, he said, for the first time imposed upon shipowners a compulsory scale of provisions to be furnished daily to the crew. The shipowners raised no objection to that, and the scale agreed upon was one which he thought had generally been accepted as fair and reasonable. It had been very much discussed, and all interests had been consulted, and he understood that on the whole this scale of provisions was considered fair and reasonable. The Amendment was simply designed to secure that the sailor should not wilfully waste or destroy any of the provisions served out to him under this scale. He did not say for a minute that the general body of sailors would waste or destroy the provisions served out to them, but no doubt there were cases in which a sailor was careless or wilful in the matter of the treatment of the provisions served out to him, and it was desirable that some check should be put upon him by an Amendment of this kind. He thought it was very reasonable that where provisions were to be served out day by day to the general body of men it should be clearly understood that they were not served out for the purpose of waste or destruction, but to be used for the legitimate purpose for which they were intended. He begged to move.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 7, at the end to insert the words, 'if any seaman wilfully wastes or destroys any provisions furnished in accordance with this section, he shall be liable on summary conviction to forfeit out of his wages a sum not exceeding one day's pay for each offence.'"—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON hoped the House would reject this proposal. In his opinion it was a very mean proposal indeed. The scale of provisions which the hon. Member referred to was spoken of as being a very generous scale. He reminded the hon. Member that it was below the scale recommended by the Committee that sat to inquire into the subject. Lord St. Helier's Committee recommended a more generous scale than this, and it was agreed to by the three shipowning representatives who sat on the Committee, but in consequence of the pressure which the shipowners brought to bear on the Board of Trade the seamen had lost their bacon and their tomatoes. He would point out that the food provided according to the scale was part of the man's wages. It was part of his agreement. If he did not get the food he would get more wages. If then that was part of his wages, what right had the shipowner to come in and interfere with what belonged to the men? The shipowner's duty was to provide what the law said the seaman should have, and what right had the shipowner to say "Although that belongs to you, you must hand it back, or I shall have you punished?" In the Navy there was a provision scale, and if the men could not consume what was given out they could hand it back, and get a corresponding allowance. He would ask the hon. Member whether, if a man got a pound of bread and only consumed half a pound, he would be willing to allow the man a tin of sardines. He was on board a sailing ship once, and they left the Mauritius for a three and a half months passage. The pork and beef supplied to the crew was such towards the end, that when they got the food from the galley they were glad to get it overboard. In that case, if the law had been as proposed by this Amendment, the captain could have taken note that the food was thrown overboard, and at the end of the passage the men would have been brought before a magistrate, and part of their wages deducted. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment. He was surprised that the hon. Member for Liverpool had gone back on his good intentions. He talked in the early part of the evening of his sympathy with seamen, and now he was proposing to put the men in jail when they dealt with their own food in their own way. He hoped the Board of Trade would not for a moment entertain the idea of accepting the Amendment. If a seaman got forty pounds in provisions there might be ten pounds of it bone. There was no provision made that they would get beef. The meat supplied had often considerable bits of bone. He thought the owners went in search of bony bits. He hoped there would be no difficulty in disposing of this Amendment in the right way.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 28; Noes, 261. (Division List No. 322.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Balcarres, Lord
Boyle, Sir Edward
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Elibank, Master of
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, John Michael F.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Paul, Herbert
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Winfrey, R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Austin Taylor and Mr. Harmood-Banner.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bull, Sir William James
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc')
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Sir Francis William

Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Marnham, F. J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh,Central
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolver'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robinson, S.
Rowlands, J.
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool,Walton
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Verney, F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John(Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middleborough
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 7, at end to insert the words, '(3) If the master of a ship fails to furnish provisions in accordance with this section, and the court before which the case is tried consider that the failure was due to the neglect or default of the master, the master shall be liable on summary conviction, in addition to paying compensation under section one hundred and ninety-nine of the principal Act, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said that the hon. Member for Middlesbrough was very eloquent earlier in the debate in regard to the atrocity of asking that a seaman should be liable to any penalty for wilfully destroying any kind of food. But surely there must be some measure between the crime committed and the penalty proposed. Admitting that there might be 1 per cent. of failures on the part of masters of ships to furnish provisions in accordance with the Act, he asked if it was right for masters of ships to have to appear before a court and prove that it was not their neglect or default, failing which the court was invited to inflict upon them a fine of £100? He was not going to offer any opposition to this clause, because when he made a bargain it was in conformity with the traditions of public life to carry it out. At the same time, he could not help expressing his own opinion that there should be equal justice meted out between master and man.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said it would have been just as well if the hon. Member for Liverpool had spoken out plainly instead of insinuating that he had broken some bargain. He repudiated any such charge. The President of the Board of Trade knew what took place. The master was the man who had charge of this matter. He could take on board in foreign ports what provisions he required. He had the advantage of the owner when he was away from this country and in different parts of the world, and if the master failed to provide sufficient food what was the good of offering a half starved sailor 6d. or 8d. a day at the conclusion of the voyage? That was no compensation to a man who had been half starved. The hon. Member knew perfectly well that some masters provided the food and that the owners allowed them 1s. 6d. a day per man for doing so. That was a very bad system and one which had done more to bring the shipowners into disrepute than anything else he knew of, because the shipowner was blamed for making a profit out of the stomachs of the men, whereas it was the master who was doing so. This clause simply provided that the master should carry sufficient stores on board his vessel, and might he remind the hon. Member that it was provided what substitutes and food equivalents could be given by the master? They wanted to say that a man should not get rice instead of flour, and he thought that it was only a necessary precaution to see that men were not badly treated on board ship by being starved, and the master being the agent of the owner he was the responsible man and not the owner.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR moved an Amendment to make Clause 23 inapplicable to those "not accustomed to a European dietary with whom an agreement is entered into providing an adequate scale of provisions suited to their needs and uses." As his Amendment appeared on the Paper it was applied to "or other Asiatics or foreigners not accustomed to European dietary," but he had omitted the words "Asiatics or foreigners." He wished to be quite frank about this. The Bill recognised of course that it was fair that there should be in some trades the employment of other than European races. That was essential to enable the shipowners to carry on their trade in successful competition with other nations, and this they could not do unless they were at liberty to recruit their seamen from Asiatic sources. Generally speaking he thought all the men recruited were subjects of the King; they might not be so, but it was for that case that this Amendment was intended to apply. It was quite obvious that it would be absurd to force upon natives of the Far East a scale of provisions which was suitable to our own country or to those working under the conditions which prevailed, say, in the Western Ocean. In the Far East the natives were accustomed to a perfectly different scale of provisions, and not only that, to a different amount of provisions. As they were accustomed to a different kind and a different quantity of provisions, it was most essential—he did not think he need labour the point—that the shipowners, if allowed under this Bill to employ labour from the Far East drawn from the natives of those countries, should be also enabled to supply them with such provisions as were suited to their constitutions. The principle was really embodied in the Bill, and this Amendment made it most clear that where they were employing men of a different race they should be able to give them suitable food. No nation had stronger racial instincts than ourselves, but if they were empowered to employ Asiatics, shipowners should also have the power of seeing that dietary suited to their constitutions was afforded them.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) seconded the Amendment, but in doing so did not wish to defend the employment of Asiatics or natives of the Far East which was admitted throughout this Bill to be not only justifiable but necessary, upon the high seas. But as soon as a case for employing Asiatics was made out and it was shown that it was necessary, it was also necessary to insist that they should be supplied with such foods as they were accustomed to and required. To insist upon anything like the dietary necessary for Europeans being supplied to Asiatics would not be doing them any good, but would put them to grave inconvenience, and no inconvenience would attach to such a provision as the Amendment made, the only result of rejecting which would be to make the owner pay more than was necessary for the dietary of these men. It could have no other effect. So little did these Asiatics require the scale of food which was required by the British sailor that he remembered the case of an inhabitant of Turkish Arabia who, having been to Europe, when he came back was asked what he thought of the country. So little did he think of it that he complained that he could not buy dates and curdled milk when he wanted them. This Amendment only provided that the inhabitants of other countries should be supplied with the food which was suitable to them; it would chiefly affect British Indian subjects, and he begged leave to second it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 11, after the word 'India' to insert the words 'or others not accustomed to European dietary with whom an agreement is entered into providing an adequate scale of provisions suited to their needs and uses.'"—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE thought that this was a perfectly fair Amendment. The question of whether or not shipowners should employ Asiatics or Lascars was a totally different one and personally he defended the employment of Lascars on British ships because they were British subjects. But if they were employed at all the shipowners ought to give them the dietary they were accustomed to. It was absurd to give them a European dietary consisting of meat, etc., and force it upon them, because it was not what they wanted. He did not know whether it was possible to have any scale drawn up which would be applicable to Lascars. He remembered asking his hon. friend the Member for Middlesbrough in the Committee whether he could supply him with a schedule of that kind in regard to the food which Lascars cared for, which would come to the same thing in point of price as was provided in the schedule to this Bill. He had not yet received that Lascar schedule, and he had been waiting some time, but he thought it was perfectly fair that if they were going to have Lascars at all they should give them the food which was suited to them. He accepted the Amendment.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON perfectly agreed that one could not feed Lascars on European food. Anybody who knew anything about this matter would tell them that the Lascars would not like it at all. But it was quite another matter to consider the miserable and meagre fare which was given to Lascars now. It was true that he promised the right hon. Gentleman a bill of fare, and he had one, and if he could move one later on he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept it if it did not exceed in cost the price of the food which under this Bill was given to European sailors. He understood that that was what the right hon. Gentleman meant—that so long as it did not exceed the cost of the food given to the European he would not complain of it. He could not follow the argument of his right hon. friend who said that it was necessary to carry the Lascar in the China trade, because the Germans and the French carried on trade in the Far East without the Lascar. None of the French mail boats were allowed to carry Lascars, and that showed that they could carry on their trade in the Far East without them. It was only the Britisher who wished to carry on his trade by having cheap labour except that belonging to his own country. He was quite prepared to agree that the Lascar should have a separate food scale, but he did want to see him have some better food than he had now, and as they were British subjects, and we were proud of our fellow-subjects in India, we ought to give them the same treatment as we were giving to our fellow subjects in England. He would bring up the Lascars dietary scale when the Bill reached a later stage with a view of having it embodied in the measure. There should be no difficulty in framing a dietary for Lascars, because we had Lascars in our own Government service, and the dietary in force in the Royal Naval Marine would be an excellent dietary to ensure that the Lascar had proper food.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) hoped the House would not accept the statement of the hon. Member, which he had made without bringing forward any facts in support of it, that the British shipowner did not give the Lascar proper food.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said the very fact that they are dealing with this statutory scale for British seamen, let alone for Lascars, showed that it was necessary to deal with the case of the latter.

LORD TURNOUR was not aware that the question of Lascars entered into this sub-section, and he had heard no argument and no facts in support of the idea that the shipowners had not given them proper food.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON: I did not say proper food; I said insufficient in quantity.

LORD TURNOUR adhered to his view that the hon. Member should not bring forward accusations without any proof.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he was two years on the Committee which inquired into this subject, so that he was not speaking without knowledge, and he did not think the noble Lord should make these reflections.

LORD TURNOUR said he did not want to be discourteous to the hon. Gentleman and he did not think that he had been. But he did not consider that the hon. Member should bring forward this matter without proving what he said. The hon. Member had not brought forward any specific proof in support of it, and therefore he hoped the House would adopt the Amendment that had been proposed.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CLAUDE HAY moved to leave out "may" and insert "shall" in Clause 24. The object he had in view was obvious if one looked at the clause, "Inspection of provisions and water." Provisions and water intended for the use of any British crew might be inspected if the ship was going from any port in the United Kingdom. If it was a purely permissive power, then it seemed to him that the clause would be of little use. What they wanted, if the provision was to be effective, was that they should be satisfied that crews of all British ships leaving these shores would have food which had passed proper tests and was known to be good. They were all familiar with the arguments advanced from time to time by Governments in this House as to when the word "may" might mean "shall;" likewise they were all hardened to the arguments as to the necessity of the word "shall" when it was in a Government proposal, and they also knew how necessary was it that it should be opposed when the mandatory word was proposed by a private Member in other parts of the Bill. Where Governments desired that it should be strongly operative there was no playing about with the word "may." The word "shall" was inserted, and therefore he earnestly appealed to the President of the Board of Trade to accept this Amendment.

LORD CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) desired to associate himself with his hon. friend and to second the Amendment. It appeared to him a slipshod way of wording an Act to say "An inspecting officer appointed under 206 of the principal Act may inspect." He could not understand why the word "may" was placed in the clause at all unless indeed it was due to some fault in the drafting of the Bill. He therefore desired to urge upon the right hon. Gentleman the desirability of substituting the word "shall" for the word "may."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 13, after the word 'Act' to leave out the word 'may' and insert the word 'shall'."—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'may' stand part of the Bill."

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport) said the object which his hon. friend had in view was to make the inspection of provisions compulsory instead of permissive; therefore he must contemplate that the provisions of every ship leaving the ports of this country should be inspected. He did not say that that was impossible. Nothing was impossible where the country faced the cost and employed the necessary staff. But in this particular case it would necessitate the employment of a colossal staff, and cost a great deal of money. He suggested that what the House had to consider in this case was whether the system now in operation was active and effective in its working. The Board of Trade inspectors were at every port, and it was their duty to make investigations and inspections on board ship and elsewhere, and they knew from practical experience that that system had had excellent results. He had been told that it would cost something like £40,000 a year to see that every ship that left the ports of this country had its provisions inspected. They were satisfied that under our present regulations nothing escaped that ought not to escape. Let the House look at this Amendment as it would deal with the whole of the country generally, and not only with ships. The local authorities, or the municipal authorities, were responsible for inspection in their localities, and their inspectors dropped in at haphazard moments, and took samples to see whether adulteration was going on, or whether inferior goods were being sold. That was effectual and it would not be suggested for a moment that every shop should be inspected. It was left to the good judgment of the officer. What he desired to see was that those who went long voyages should have the best possible food, and that was why the Government put this clause in the Bill. They were in favour of the greatest possible inspection, but he was bound to point out that it would be impossible to accept it, and therefore he could not give any encouragement to the hon. Member's Amendment.

LORD BALCARRES said there was one point he was not quite clear about. He quite followed the argument of the hon. Member, but did not quite see how it met the Amendment in the hon. Member's own name later on in the clause. On the second line his hon. friend proposed that the inspection "should" be compulsory. The hon. Member opposed that, but in line 22 just below, the hon. Member was going to move to insert after the word "that" "an inspection of provisions or water under this section shall be made." It appeared to him that it was made voluntary on the part of the inspector in the first two lines of the clause, but in line 22 the mandatory words were put in and that appeared to be contradictory to the earlier words of the clause.

*MR. KEARLEY pointed out that that was a misprint; that the words should be "provided that 'any' inspection."

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON hoped the hon. Member would not press his Amendment. This matter, he said, had been fully discussed between the Board of Trade, the shipowners, and the seamen. It was first discussed in Grand Committee, and since then they had had several conferences on the point, and they were, as a result, agreed upon this matter. His hon. friend would believe him when he said he was not likely to give up any point in favour of the seamen, and that he was quite satisfied with this clause. Therefore he hoped he would not press his Amendment.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he would not press the Amendment, although he was bound to say he was not satisfied that the shipowners and the seamen were agreed on the word "may." He could only say he hoped the time was not far distant when inspection would be made compulsory.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said the object of the next Amendment which he desired to move, was that seamen should, on sailing from foreign ports, have the same chance of getting decent food as when sailing from British ports. Surely if a British seaman was working on a British ship, whether he sailed from a French, Dutch, or American port, or whether he sailed to those ports from the coas of England, he was entitled to the same protection of life and health. There was already an absolutely sufficient staff to carry out the examination of ships. If this Amendment was not accepted, the Government would be simply giving British sailors half a loaf when they most certainly ought to have a whole one.

MR. ASHLEY said that he would not have been able to second this Amendment if the word 'shall' had been inserted instead of the word 'may,' because they all knew that the Consular officers had a great many, and very often purely honorary, duties to perform and, therefore, they could not expect them to examine the condition of every ship. But as it was purely permissive, he could not see any harm in giving them the power in any flagrant case to examine at the foreign ports, in order to carry out the same conditions as when a ship left an English port for a foreign port. Therefore, he had much pleasure in seconding the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 15, after the word 'going,' to insert the words 'to or.' "—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed "That the words 'to or' be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR was sure that the mover and seconder of the Amendment were actuated by the best of motives, but he did not know whether the mover was aware that it was customary to store vessels in this country for the voyages which they undertook, and the last thing British shipowners wanted to do was to buy provisions in foreign ports where things were much dearer, because here, owing to our free trade principles, they were able to get everything at a moderate valuation. It was to the advantage of every shipowner to store his ship here for as long a period as he possibly could. He could not understand where the staff which would be required, if the Amendment were carried, would come from.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Consular officers.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked who was to pay these people? If British shipping had to wait on the convenience of Consular officers while they were inspecting provisions already inspected in this country it was not a practical proposition and he did hope His Majesty's Government would not accept it.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he was thankful to the hon. Gentleman for trying to make this Bill as good as possible, but he could assure him he had given this clause every consideration, and such an inspection would be utterly impracticable. The Consular staff had quite sufficient to do to deal with the engagement and discharge of seamen without this additional work, and even if they had time, it would be utterly impossible in large ports, like Rotterdam, where there were sixty or seventy British ships scattered over the harbour, for any inspection to take place. He should very much like to see inspection abroad but it could not be done, and it was no use pressing for the thing which it was not possible to carry out. Then, under the Merchant Shipping Act as it was now, a seaman could demand a survey. Unfortunately, when such a survey was called for, it was done generally by the captains of two other ships, who generally pronounced the provisions to be excellent. He hoped before this Bill was disposed of they might have some alteration, providing that any such survey asked by the seamen abroad for the inspection of their food should be an independent one. If it were possible to carry out the present Amendment he would be only too pleased to support it, but he could not see his way clear to do so.

*MR. KEARLEY said he could only practically repeat the arguments that had been used against the Amendment. It would be perfectly impossible to put the regulations into force in every part of the world. He understood the mover to suggest that the expense involved should be thrown on the Consular service.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I simply stated that the duties could be carried out by the Consular staff.

*MR. KEARLEY said the Consular officer was already well occupied and was not an overpaid servant, and he was sure he would not be prepared to undertake a new, responsible duty of this kind. He did not know what prospect of success the hon. Gentleman thought he would have of influencing the Chancellor of the Exchequer sufficiently in his favour to make the enormous grant of money that would be necessary to carry out his idea. He thoroughly sympathised with his desire to make regulations more stringent so that the British sailor throughout the world should have the utmost possible protection, but that could only be done by a practical measure, and it was perfectly impractical to think that for a single moment they could establish a system of inspection in the ports throughout the world.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he did not wish to press this Amendment, but he was bound to say he was not the least convinced by the arguments against it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, line 22, after the words 'that' to insert the words 'an inspection of provisions or water under this section, shall be made before shipment whenever practicable and "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 9, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words 'and that notice is given within seventy-two hours of the time fixed for the departure of the ship.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 8, line 27, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'if they are at a convenient place for inspection.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

LORD BALCARRES said he did not quite see the object of these words.

*MR. KEARLEY said the object was that when stores were collected and warehoused at some convenient and accessible place, the shipowner should have the opportunity of intimating to the Board of Trade inspector that these goods were for a certain ship and were ready for inspection when that notification had been given. If the inspector did not inspect those provisions within forty-eight hours after receiving that notification, then the ships' store dealer was at liberty to send the goods on to the ship. It was felt to be very necessary to give shipowners the facility of having their goods inspected before going on board. He was told it was the custom of shipowners to give their orders for a particular ship to a ships' store dealer, and he collected them probably in a warehouse close by the ship, or in his own warehouse in the neighbourhood of the shipping. This Amendment only slightly extended the law at the present moment.

LORD BALCARRES: It does not read.

MR. KEARLEY said he was sorry he misunderstood the noble Lord's point. He thought it read very satisfactorily, and he was afraid he could not help the noble Lord further.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 9, line 28, at end of line to insert the words 'without prejudice to the power of the inspector to inspect any provisions or water not specified in the notice.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 9, line 31, at end of line to insert the words 'unless the court before which the case is tried think that the finding of the inspecting officer was not justified.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 10, lines 4 and 5, to leave out 'thirty-first day of December nineteen hundred and seven,' and to insert the words 'thirtieth day of June nineteen hundred and eight.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 6, to leave out the word 'registered.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. DAVID MACIVER: I think we are entitled to have some explanation of this Amendment.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he understood that "gross tonnage" was sufficient without the word "registered," which was superfluous. Gross tonnage expressed exactly what was meant.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 19, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'in the case of ships of not more than two thousand tons gross tonnage, or ships in which the crew, or the majority of the crew, provide their own provisions, either as ship's cook or as."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: On an Amendment of this kind I think we are entitled to some explanation as to why these words are proposed.

*MR. KEARLEY said this was a point raised by the hon. Member for Middlesbrough in Committee. The Amendment had been drawn to meet a desire that there should be some further limitation in that direction.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 10, line 23, to leave out lines 23 to 26, being Sub-section (5).—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) asked for some explanation from the Government as to why this important Sub-section was to be omitted?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Because we take a general dispensing power later on in the Bill, and therefore it is not necessary to take it here. Consequently these words are unnecessary.

LORD BALCARRES said that so far as he read Clause 70 it applied to the whole ship, and this sub-section simply enabled the Board of Trade to exempt a particular class. Under Clause 70 they would have to exempt the whole ship, but this sub-section limited the power of the Board of Trade. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would consider this point at a later stage.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he remembered raising this point in Committee about the Board of Trade having power to dispense with this section's requirements, and it related to the employment of cooks.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 11, line 28, after the word 'officer,' to insert the words 'or, in case of an appeal under this section, to a court of summary jurisdiction.'"

"In page 11, line 33, after the word 'deducted,' to insert the words 'or repaid.'"

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 11, line 36, at end add, 'Where the master of a ship whose voyage terminates in the United Kingdom is aggrieved by the decision of the proper officer as to the sums to be allowed as properly chargeable on his reimbursement account, and the amount in dispute exceeds ten pounds, he may appeal from the decision of the proper officer to a court of summary jurisdiction.'"

"In page 11, line 36, at end to insert, '(4) Where during the voyage of a ship two or more seamen have been left behind, the delivery and reimbursement accounts furnished as respects each seaman may at the option of the master of the ship be dealt with, as between him and the proper officer, collectively instead of individually, and in that case the master of the ship shall be entitled to be reimbursed out of the total amount of the wages and effects of the seamen left behind the total of the amounts allowed under this section as properly chargeable on the reimbursement accounts, and shall be required to deliver to the proper officer on account of wages only the sum by which the total of the amounts shown on the delivery accounts to be due on account of wages exceeds the total of the amounts allowed as properly chargeable on the reimbursement accounts.'"

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD thought they ought to have some intelligent explanation, which he had no doubt could be given in a few words as to what this extraordinary clause meant.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the explanation was very simple even if the words were not. The proposal was to allow the master of a ship to pool the whole of the money. This was purely a transaction between the Board of Trade and the shipowners, who claimed that when they were paying over money to the Government they should be allowed to pool all the sums received in this way.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 12, line 23, after the word 'them,' to insert the words 'in respect of the voyage of the ship.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 12, line 36, at end, to insert the words, 'provided that they have given notice to the master or owner of the ship, and the master or owner has not given written notice of objection within ten days of the notice being given.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

"In page 13, line 30, after the word 'pounds,' to insert the words, 'and the master does not exercise his option to deal with the delivery and reimbursement accounts collectively.'"—(*Mr Lloyd-George.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 13, line 35, after the word 'pounds,' to insert the words, 'and the master does not exercise his option to deal with the delivery and reimbursement accounts collectively.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said his objection to this Amendment was that it enabled the master of a ship to penalise one sailor because there happened to be other sailors who had deserted and who might be in a more or less advantageous position than the particular sailor with whom he ought to deal. He did not think it was right that the master of a ship should be able to penalise a particular seaman in that way, and to put that man in a worse position than those who had deserted. It appeared to him that it was not equitable. He objected to these words being added in the way proposed or in any other.

Mr. HAVELOCK WILSON said this question had been thoroughly discussed, and he was fully satisfied that the case of the seaman was well protected. What was here proposed in no way took away the right of any particular seaman to claim what he was entitled to.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: This has nothing to do with the question between the individual sailor and the shipowner. It is purely a question of accounting between the master and the officer.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 14, line 1, to leave out Sub-section (12)."—(*Mr Lloyd George.*)

Question proposed, "That the sub-section proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Lord CASTLEREAGH wished the President of the Board of Trade to give some reason why the sub-section should be omitted.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: It is quite unnecessary. This is purely a drafting Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 15, line 35, at end to add the words '(3) This section shall not apply in the case of a foreign seaman who has been shipped at a port out of the United Kingdom and discharged at a port out of the United Kingdom.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he gathered that the meaning of this clause was to protect seamen on British ships. He certainly thought the House should have some explanation as to what the Amendment really meant, and what the effect would be. He might be wrong as to the meaning of it. If he was right, he thought if they passed the Amendment they should be guilty of the grossest injustice.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he had a discussion on this matter with the shipowners and he thought they made out a good case. In a case where they shipped a foreign sailor, say at Valparaiso for Hamburg, he did not see why the British shipowner should be compelled to bring that sailor to this country where he did not want him, or even to repatriate him to Chili. It was his own business and the business of his Government. He entered into a bargain to go to Hamburg. As a matter of fact he would prefer to be in Hamburg. It was purely a question for the German Government if they would take him. He understood that they would and he wished them luck.

Mr. HAVELOCK WILSON: We are perfectly satisfied with the Clause as drafted.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 16, line 6, at end to add the words 'and shall apply to foreign seamen whether they have been shipped at a port in the United Kingdom or not.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That these words be there added," put, and agreed to.

Sir ROBERT ROPNER moved—

"In page 17, line 36, after the word 'otherwise' to insert the words 'this clause to be ineffective in case the ship is at a place where there is no such proper authority, or in case a seaman deserts or absents himself from the ship within twenty-four hours before the ship is ready to sail.' "

The Amendment was not seconded, and therefore fell to the ground.

Verbal Amendments made.

COLONEL IVOR PHILIPPS (Southampton) said there were many cases where seamen were invalided abroad, and it might be a great relief to them if they could be sent straight back to their own homes. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 2, after the word 'port,' to insert the words 'of their place of abode in the United Kingdom.' "—(*Colonel Ivor Philipps.*)

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the Bill, as it stood, was a very considerable improvement on the law as it now existed. He thought it was much better that all questions in regard to the return of seamen should be adjudicated upon by the Consul or proper officer at the port of discharge.

COLONEL IVOR PHILIPPS asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 23, line 14, at end to insert the words 'Provided that in the case of a seaman belonging to a British possession who has been shipped and discharged out of the United Kingdom the proper officer may treat a port in the United Kingdom as a proper return port.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 24, line 12, at end, to insert the words 'and also, where that is the case, to the fact that a British ship which is in want of men to make up its complement is about to proceed to a proper return port.' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he was bound to raise some objection to the compulsion involved in this provision. A crew might be kept hanging about in a foreign port for ten days waiting for a ship to return to their desired port. If a ship owner for his own convenience was going to discharge his men in a foreign port, the least he could do was to provide that these men should be sent home as passengers. This Amendment said that the men must sign on a ship to a return port which they might not like.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that his hon. friend had overlooked the words "about to proceed." That was a point for the proper authority to consider and decide. If the proper officer could say "there is a ship wanting men about to return to your port,' why should the shipowner be compelled to send the men home as passengers? It would be an advantage to the men to be earning wages on their return voyage.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON said he wanted to point out that a ship about to return to the United Kingdom might mean a ship that had to call at a large number of intermediate ports, and might be three months on the voyage. That might not be at all convenient for the men who had been already two or three years absent from home.

SIR W. ROBSON said that these were questions which the proper authority must take into consideration.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked whether the objection of the hon. Member for Middlesbrough could not be met by the insertion of the word "direct" after "proceed."

MR. CHARLES WILSON said he did not see the force of the objection of the hon. Member, if during the whole of the time the men were returning to the home port they were earning good wages.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 25, line 24, at end, to insert the following sub-section :—'(3) The provisions of this part of this Act shall for the purpose of sections two hundred and sixty to two hundred and sixty-six of the Principal Act (which relate to the application of Part II. of this Act), be construed as if they were contained in Part II. of that Act.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question, "That this sub-section be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

MR. EVELYN CECIL said he desired to move the omission of Clause 51, because it was open to very much the same objection as legislation by reference of which mention had been made in the earlier part of the evening. He was aware that in the Grand Committee nothing was said on this matter, but he did not think that the Committee itself fully realised the far-reaching effects of this clause. Speaking for himself, he admitted that to some extent he was deceived by the statement in the Memorandum which said that this clause among others formed—

> "Miscellaneous Amendments of Merchant Shipping Laws which are designed to remedy various defects which have been disclosed in the administration of the law during past years."

Incidentally he might observe that some carelessness had been exhibited in the re-print of the Bill, because the Memorandum had been printed with the old figures of the clauses, instead of the new figures. That was a source of considerable confusion. This clause provided that space for the storage of provisions or water might be deducted from the gross tonnage in order to ascertain the net registered tonnage. Of course that provision was made wholly as a matter between the employers and the seamen. It was from that point of view a matter of compromise, and it was not as such that he proposed to object to it; but it had other far-reaching effects which had not been noticed or even mentioned in the Committee upstairs, and had only come to light in view of closer examination of the clause. In the first place this particular clause, if passed, dealt extremely hardly with the pilots of the United Kingdom. ["No, no."] An hon. Gentleman said "No," but he should be glad to hear on what grounds he said so. The remuneration of pilots was based on the net registered tonnage of the ship piloted, and if that was so, it was perfectly clear that by reducing in this way the amount of net registered tonnage of the ship—by requiring that the space for water and provisions should be deducted from the gross tonnage in order to ascertain the net tonnage on which the pilot charged—it would necessarily affect the remuneration of the pilots. And it would not do so in any small degree, but to a large extent. He was informed by the United Kingdom Pilots Association that in a vessel of a thousand tons the reduction on pilots' wages might be as much as 23 per cent. on what they were before, and needless to say where it became a question of piloting our Atlantic liners into port, the amount of remuneration which the pilots lost would in consequence of this loss of tonnage necessarily be very considerable indeed, and while he for one was anxious that the comforts of seamen should be thoroughly safeguarded, he could not understand why the wages of another class of seamen—the pilots—should be so seriously reduced. In endeavouring to meet the needs of sea-going seamen the pilots were being treated unjustly; and if so large a class as they were to be affected in this way it would be better to take back this clause, to reconsider the matter and see if some better proposal could not be made, than to persist in a proposal which affected them so gravely. He did not propose to consider the question of pilots further. He was sure that their case would be considered in other quarters of the House, and he wanted to pass to another class of persons who were seriously affected by this clause, and that was the dock owners. He thought it was probably true to say that so far as the main docks of this kingdom are concerned they were practically not in themselves paying concerns. Of course they might incidentally draw profit from surrounding circumstances, but the administration of the docks, the keeping of them going, so as to be efficient under the control and management of the dock authorities was not, generally speaking, a paying concern. And one had to remember in this connection that dock owners had at the present time to make very great increases and important improvements. More was required of them, and as the size and the length of ships increased it was necessary that larger docks should be built and that more money should be spent in repairs, and that in all respects they should be kept thoroughly up-to-date. Therefore it was not a moment at which to pass a clause which materially curtailed the income of the dock authorities and dock owners; and that that would be the effect of this clause was not, he imagined, disputed. Dock charges, like the pilots' wages, depended upon the net registered tonnage which came into the dock, and if by this regulation they reduced the net registered tonnage they thereby impaired the income of the dock, and diminished the sum which was required for improvements and keeping the undertaking efficient: and it must be remembered that the general public obtained large advantages from these undertakings. There was another point. The dock owners had raised loans on the security of the rates they levied, and it seemed hardly right or just that this House should arbitrarily reduce the security on which these loans were raised. And yet that would be the effect of the passing of this clause. By lessening the income of the docks the security on which the loans had been charged was weakened, while the loans themselves were left still outstanding. That was not a very wise policy, and it was open to the objection that they were interfering with the credit of the dock authorities in a way that was not justified. But after all he did not know that these were the most important objections to this clause even from the dock point of view, because it seemed to him that the amount of space taken in the docks by the ships should be the real basis of the calculation of indebtedness to the dock owners.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is a separate point.

MR. EVELYN CECIL: That is a different point, of course. He was, however, putting several points one by one to which he hoped to receive an answer, and he thought that was a perfectly sound point. As the right hon. Gentleman said, it was a perfectly separate point, but it was a point which required consideration. He thought the space in the docks was what these charges ought to be made for, because it was only just that the larger the space the ships took up in the docks the more they should have to pay. Really the questions raised by this Bill were questions between the employers and the seamen, and the Bill was largely in the nature of a compromise in order to deal fairly between those classes. Why, then, should such important persons as pilots and dock authorities be dragged into a discussion between those two parties and suffer for it? This question of the loss of the measurement of tonnage with a view to a very desirable increase in the comfort of seamen was not a matter which could be said to have anything to do with the pilots or with the dock authorities, and it would be better and fairer that the employers and the seamen should come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement without infringing so largely upon the rights and privileges of these injured persons. It was upon that ground and on the particular grounds which he had explained that he ventured to ask the Government to withdraw this clause in consequence of the great injustice which would be done to the classes to which he had referred.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil), in seconding the Amendment, said he wished to address the House very briefly and to make a strong appeal to his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, if he could not omit the clause, to meet the pilots and dock owners half way. This clause in Committee upstairs was not discussed at all from the point of view of the pilots. It was not realised at that time that their interests were affected. Under these circumstances he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would re-consider the position. He had had facts laid before him since the Committee stage of the Bill, and had received large deputations from the dock owners and the pilots, who had laid before him considerations which should, he thought, induce him to alter his attitude in regard to this clause. This clause dealt with the method of measuring net register, a very complicated and prickly subject. It was a very important matter which ought to be dealt with, but he did not think that this was a Bill in which a matter of that kind should be dealt with, and they objected to its being dealt with piecemeal in this way. His hon. friend below the gangway said that this clause did not affect pilots.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR. No, Sir. If I may correct my hon. friend I would point out that the hon. Gentleman opposite said that it may affect the whole of the pilots. It was to that statement that I objected.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS accepted the correction, but pointed out that the deduction of spaces used for storage of provisions, etc., in ascertaining tonnage made a very considerable reduction in the net tonnage and in the earnings of pilots. He was informed that in the case of the pilots in the Bristol Channel it would mean twelve and a half per cent. reduction in their earnings. Not only was the work of the pilot very arduous and hazardous, but they had to employ capital and men, and a reduction of, say, 5 per cent. under such a proposal as this would mean a reduction of twelve and a half per cent. in the earnings of the pilots themselves. Moreover, they had been called upon to do more and more work in the last ten years at less pay. The average size of vessels was becoming steadily larger. He was informed that though the tonnage cleared from the Cardiff Docks increased 1,250,000 tons between 1895 and 1905 the pilots' earnings were £35 less. The shipowners were a powerful body of men, well able to take care of themselves, and they had obtained many concessions in this Bill, which in his opinion was largely a shipowners' Bill. Although they welcomed the concessions to the seamen they objected to those concessions being given at the expense of the pilots. The dock-owners' case was equally hard. Dock companies which were made up of small shareholders had been put to great expense to meet the requirements of the shipowners, but the dues received by them in return for this huge expenditure had been practically insignificant having regard to that expense. Under all these circumstances he strongly urged his right hon. friend to reconsider the position.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 26, line 26, to leave out Clause 51."—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of the clause to the word 'spaces,' in line 26, stand part of the Bill."

MR. JOYCE desired to associate himself with the mover and the seconder of this Amendment and to ask the serious consideration of the President of the Board of Trade to the questions that had been raised. In this regard he desired to say a few words as to how it would affect the pilots. In dealing with the pilots of the United Kingdom this House was dealing with a body of men of whom the nation should be proud. We wanted lines of defence for the nation, and he considered the pilots of the nation the first line of defence. They had the pilot always on duty. Blow high, blow low, in storm and sunshine, the pilots must be at their posts, and certainly their remuneration in the United Kingdom was not of the largest. He was aware of the fact that pilots in other lands earned good and substantial incomes, but he was not aware that outside a few ports and a few choice pilots in this Kingdom, the pilots of this country could aspire to be millionaires. Taking all these circumstances into account, and taking into account that pilots were themselves seamen, the Board of Trade and the Government of this country should be very chary of attacking the rights of such an important body of men. From his reading and from his own recollection, and he was himself a pilot for twenty-three years before he was fortunately or unfortunately for himself sent to this House, he knew the difficulties that pilots had to contend with, not only in the law as administered to them, but in the way the shipowners treated them. He knew the whole tendency of the Act of 1851 was to reduce the earnings of the pilot. The ships grew larger, but the wages did not increase. He remembered when he commenced piloting in 1878 that there were a certain number of pilots in the port of Limerick, to-day there were exactly half the number. With the increased size of the vessels steam became the real power, and so old pilots dropped and new men could not be made because the wages to-day would be starvation wages. Pilots were obliged to live respectably, they had to meet men of every country and to talk intelligently to them of the port and the country to which the ship was going. They were men upon whom the shipmaster had to depend to know how things were going at home. Taking all those things into consideration the Board of Trade should be very chary in still further limiting the earnings of the pilots. He would not like to use strong language and denounce anything of this sort as robbery, but if it was persisted in it would amount to the robbery of a most deserving class of men who, whether space was made larger or not, would have to do the same amount of work and not for a larger amount of money. He thought the pilots' case had been splendidly put by the mover and seconder of the Amendment. He desired to add his word as to harbour authorities and dockowners. In most cases, the dockowners were the harbour authorities, and it was in the case of small docks where they suffered most. They had to keep their docks up to the requirements of modern-built ships. They all knew that in graving and floating docks the authority must provide for larger vessels, and surely this was not a time to cripple their resources, when in all probability there were heavy instalments due to the Board of Works for alterations the dockowners were required to make. He was certain when he read Clause 51 that proper attention had not been given to it upstairs. He regretted that he was not on that Committee. If proper attention had been given to that clause it would not have been found in this shape. He thought therefore the right hon. Gentleman would be wise to withdraw this objectionable clause, and allow the Bill to go through all its stages without it.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR said he was sure the House would sympathise with the observations of the last speaker, which enforced the position that pilots should be well paid in order that they might take a cheerful view of circumstances when dealing with the passengers and captains of in-coming steamers. He must not be taken as being desirous of curtailing the earnings or depreciating the position of a hard-working and meritorious service in what he was about to say. When he interjected an observation a short time ago, it was simply upon a matter of fact. It ought to be perfectly well-known to the House that there were a certain number of pilots who were not in any way affected by this provision. The pilots of London, the Humber, and Liverpool were paid upon the draught, and therefore the question of net tonnage did not affect them. The pilots who were affected were the Irish pilots and those in the Bristol Channel. He wished to bring before the House the considerations involved in this clause from the point of view of the system of measuring the tonnage of steamers with a view to improving the safety and comfort of those who had to navigate them. That was the basis upon which the system of assessing tonnage of vessels had been built up, and the recent Committee presided over by the hon. Member for Dulwich, which dealt with this point, reported that the existing tonnage law, although open to criticism in some respects and by no means an ideal basis for assessing dues, had operated satisfactorily since it was adopted under the Merchant Shipping Act and had encouraged the provision of ample space for the accommodation of the crew. Now what was proposed by this

Bill? Simply that spaces which were used for the storage of provisions and water should be deducted from the tonnage in order to arrive at the net registered tonnage upon which dues were payable. That was a direct inducement to the owners of vessels not to skimp the provision of proper spaces for the accommodation of provisions and water, which was so desirable for the comfort of the crew and for those who were responsible for the safety of the ship. In ascertaining the net tonnage of steamers, if they accepted the principle that this was the best system of securing He promised this to the hon. Gentleman. the free development and the safety of the navigation of the mercantile marine, surely it was only reasonable that they should, in a Bill of this kind, deduct those spaces which tended to add to the safety and comfort of those on board the ship who had to work it. If they were going to reverse that principle then it was quite another matter. If the House was going to say that this method of ascertaining what ships ought to pay was wrong, that was another question which ought to be debated at another time. If they were going to alter the whole system of the assessment of dues in every port throughout the world, they would be interfering with the practice of those continental ports which had so very largely adopted the British system of computing net registered tonnage. If, on the other hand, they were going to face the position as it stood to-day, then they were asking for a legitimate development of that system to increase the comfort of those on board. It was not the case, as had been stated, that this was a Bill for the benefit of shipowners. Looking quite dispassionately at this measure, he could not see where the advantage to the shipowner came in, and the points at which he would benefit were extremely few. He had the greatest sympathy with regard to the pilots. He felt that if any thing could be done by a re-adjustment for those pilots whose fees were regulated by the net registered tonnage something ought to be done, and if due attention was given to the matter something could be done. That, however, was no argument for refusing to give to the shipowner and the mercantile marine a legitimate and natural development of a system of assessing dues and ascertaining net tonnage upon which the whole mercantile marine was built up. They must adopt the system with regard to the mercantile marine which they thought best, and then stick to it. As regarded the dock companies, he thought that those who lived on the mercantile marine and were partners with it in the business of over-sea enterprise, must take their share with the shipowner of the disadvantages as well as the advantages of any changes. He quite admitted there were certain cases in which the net registered tonnage was very low, and the dock companies did not get, perhaps, what they thought they were fairly entitled to, but was that a reason for applying to the whole body of the mercantile marine a condition that was unreasonable, simply because the mercantile marine would not be paying as much as it was thought it ought to others concerned? If it were thought that the dock companies were going to be mulcted because of an advance on the general line adopted in dealing with the mercantile marine, then dock companies could be compensated by the State in some other way. As regarded the pilots, it was only a certain number of them that was affected. [Cries of "There are many."] Be the number what it might, he sympathised with them, but he did think the right way to deal with the question was not to stay their hand in dealing with the mercantile marine as a whole upon approved principles, but to adjust in some way by a separate arrangement, so that others would not suffer. No one would be readier than he to lend support to the scheme by which hard-working pilots, who had to face all weathers, should receive adequate compensation.

*SIR E. BOYLE (Taunton) said the hon. Member who had just sat down had stated that this proposition of his would add to the safety and the comfort of the people on the ship. He did not think that was the real object of his speech. He thought the real object of his speech was to protect the pockets of the shipowners. Who would benefit by this reduction? Not the pilots, nor the public, but the shipowners in all those cases where the pilot's charge was regulated and limited by the tonnage. Let them see for a moment what the difference was between the gross and the registered tonnage. The charge was made only on the registered tonnage, and the registered tonnage on the whole of the steamships that came into the port of London was only from 63 to 65 per cent., and, if they took the largest ships, it was only 30 per cent. of the tonnage. So that under the present arrangements the shipowner was only paying for these large ships 30 per cent. of the actual tonnage, although the large ships were the most expensive to manipulate and for which the greatest expenditure had been incurred. The larger the ship the longer the quay. The longer the quay of necessity the wider the quay. There were more appliances for unloading these great steamers and, most important of all, they required a great depth of water; and yet these great shipowners who had had all these advantages, paying only 30 per cent. of their actual tonnage, came here to-day *ad misericordiam* asking for still further relief. It was a proposition which, when all the facts had been heard, he was sure the House would not listen to. The shipowners were a privileged class. If there was one thing which required sifting more than another, it was the charging on this registered tonnage. There were rumours abroad that in the distant future the London docks might be taken over by the London Council Council.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman must confine himself to the Amendment.

*SIR E. BOYLE said he was going to apply that remark to the Amendment, and to show that if and when any docks were taken over, this Amendment would be a means of altering the price that would be paid. He would leave it there, but he might say one thing further. If this proposition of reducing tonnage charges were listened to, they must remember that in every parish where the docks were situated there would be reduction in the rateable value of those docks. The rateable value of the docks being based on their profits, if they attacked their present limited profits by reducing the registered tonnage they reduced the rateable value. It seemed to him that his was a most moderate request. The remarks which had been made with regard to the pilots he entirely endorsed. He was told that the pilots who were paid on registered tonnage were more than half the pilots working round the United Kingdom. Whether that were so he did not know, but he did know that to give relief to the ship-owner class at the expense of the poor rates of the district where the docks existed and at the expense of the dock company was a suggestion which, if well threshed out, the House would not listen to for a moment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE demurred altogether to the statement of the last speaker that this was purely in the interests of the shipowner, and that it was the shipowner who was begging the House of Commons to reduce his registered tonnage so that he would be let off in regard to the pilot and dock dues. The Bill increased the obligations of the shipowners in the interests of the sailors in three ways—namely, it increased the space for the storing of provisions and water for the crew; it increased the space for ballast, so as to ensure greater safety of the ship; and it increased the space to be allowed for the accommodation of the sailor from 72 to 120 cubic feet. All these things for improving the condition of the sailor were deductions from the profit-earning power of the shipowner. When they were calling upon shipowners to make sacrifices for the greater safety of life at sea it was only fair that other interests like the dockowners should contribute something. Every one interested in greater safety of life at sea ought to be made to contribute. In consequence of the provisions of this Bill the shipowner would have less space to occupy, and the dockowner and the pilot ought to charge him only in respect of the space left to him. He thought there was a good deal to be said from the dockowners' point of view as to the injustice of huge ships paying only the same dock dues as ships half the size. But that was a point which was not relevant to this Bill. It raised the whole question of registered tonnage, which could only be settled by means of international conference and agreement. He sympathised very largely with the pilots, and he wished something could be done to meet their case. It had been said that the deduction for their income would amount to 5 per cent. He thought that was an exaggeration. The deduction would be nothing approximate to that amount. He had been told that perhaps the most dangerous part of the clause from the pilots' and dockowners' point of view was that relating to the storage of provisions and water and space. He thought that it was much to be regretted that the pilots and dockowners were not represented upstairs in the Committee. As a matter of fact, he had seen two deputations on this subject, and he thought that on the question of the storage of provisions and water and space, the pilots and dockowners had made out a good case; at any rate that was his view of the matter. He would not be surprised if the pilots were affected, not in London, Liverpool, or Glasgow, but in the Bristol Channel, the Tyne, the Solway, and one or two other places where the dead-weight system was in operation, and pilots were paid in accordance with the registered tonnage. What was pointed out to him by the dockowners and the pilots in regard to dead-weight and other extraneous matters was that a vessel might be constructed so as to give almost unlimited accommodation to store provisions without affecting in the slightest degree the profit-earning capacity of the ship. The dockowners and pilots were afraid of the reduction in this case more than any other, because there was no limit to what a clever naval architect might not affect in the way of reductions. That would hit dockowners very hard; and it must be remembered that some docks were not paying anything like a dividend. He would suggest to the hon. Member who moved the Amendment and his supporters that it would be only fair that they should make a contribution towards the safety of the sailors at sea and increasing their accommodation on shipboard; but at the same time the shipowners and sailors ought to meet the pilots and dockowners half way. If amended in that sense he would be prepared to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Merthyr.

MR. BONAR LAW said he agreed very largely with what had fallen from the right hon., the President of the Board of Trade. The hon. Member for Liverpool had referred to the Report of the

Committee of which he was chairman dealing with the question of the registered tonnage of ships. He appealed to the President of the Board of Trade himself to admit that the facts brought before that Committee showed that the net tonnage of ships was continually falling off. He did not think that it was more than one or two per cent. Admitting that, he was sure that there was not one member of the Committee who did not feel strongly on the evidence presented before them that the case of the dockowners, in any change made for crew space, should not be made worse than it was, and that the shipowners should not be better treated than the dockowners. If it was the case, as had been said, that the shipowners could insist upon the deduction of this storage space now, there was nothing to be said in favour of the clause. But if that was not the case, his argument held good that if the shipowners were not entitled now to this deduction, they should not make the case of the dockowners worse than it was in order to give the shipowners the right to deduct it. In other words this proposal was not germane to the scope of the Bill, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman would be more just if he left the matter as it was left by Clause 15. (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE dissented.) He saw the right hon. Gentleman shook his head, but that was his opinion. Another matter which he wished to refer to was this. The right hon. Gentleman spoke as if shipowners were being penalised by this state of things, but the whole of the evidence before the Committee went to show that no hardship was inflicted upon them at all. He held, after listening for more than a year to the statements made by the shipowners and the dockowners, that, on the whole the shipowners were better treated than the dockowners, and if they made any change at all it should not be in the direction of relieving the shipowner but of relieving the dockowner.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) said this was one of those clauses in which they were legislating by reference, which made it somewhat difficult to understand the clause at all unless they employed two or three lawyers to find out what it meant. As far as he could make out, however, the Thames Conservancy and some other bodies would be more harshly treated by this clause than the pilots and dockowners, with whom he (Mr. Morton) entirely sympathised, especially with the pilots who rightly asked to be protected. In the case of the Thames Conservancy they spent the dues, not in dividends, but in keeping the fairway and waterway clear for the ships. Now, as far as he could understand, the Thames Conservancy by these clauses would lose something like £10,000 per annum, and as they had not at present sufficient money to carry out all their duties, there was no reason why they should be placed in a position which would cripple their work. Last session Parliament put upon them the duty of dredging the Thames so as to give 30 feet at low water between the Nore and Gravesend, and for that purpose Parliament gave them increased tonnage dues for three years. They would, in the course of those three years, under this Bill lose possibly about £30,000, and that would practically prevent them from carrying out what Parliament meant them to do. Surely the Thames Conservancy ought to be thought of in dealing with matters of this kind, because London was the first Port in this Kingdom or elsewhere, and the Trade was increasing and the Conservators ought not to be prevented by want of funds from carrying out their duties in the interests of the Trade and Port of London. The President of the Board of Trade had spoken about what had been done under this Bill for the sailors, the seamen, and others, and he quite appreciated this measure, and welcomed it as an improvement and as a reform in those directions, but if something should be done for the seamen and others by means of it, surely they ought to provide other means of paying for that without crippling the work of the Conservancy. Parliament should not call upon bodies like the Thames Conservancy, or dockowners, or pilots, or others who were not receiving too much at the present moment to make up for what was given to the seamen; the Government should find the money in some other way. The President of the Board of Trade had offered to accept a portion of the Amendments that were down on the Paper in the name of his hon. friend the Member for Merthyr. But he said nothing about protecting such bodies as the Thames Conservancy although he proposed to relieve the pilots and the dockowners. The Thames Conservancy however would be more affected by this clause than either the dockowners or the pilots, or any other body. If the right hon. Gentleman would treat the Thames Conservancy in the same way as he proposed to treat others, then he should withdraw his opposition to the clause, but it seemed to him that it was not fair to leave out the Conservancy from the relief offered. The shipowners were to be relieved but not the Conservancy, which if it took money from the shipowners in tonnage dues spent every penny of it and a further amount from other sources of income for their benefit.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: May I suggest to my hon. friend that if the Amendment which I have suggested was agreed to by the House the Thames Conservancy would benefit under it as well as the others.

*MR. MORTON: If that is so I will not further proceed with my observations.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby) moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I should like to get this Amendment out of the way if possible. Still if it is thought that there should be an adjournment, I will assent.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY: I think the suggestion which the right hon. Gentleman has made requires some consideration.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: If that is the general view, I will not persist in opposing the adjournment. We have made very good progress.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Sir George Doughty*), put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Whereupon MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Wednesday, 24th October*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

## *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to. Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; of parishes in Stoke-upon-Trent; Buckland Newton; Trustees of Church Schools in parish of Hartingfordbury. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition for amendment of; of Dorsetshire Voluntary Schools Association (signed by the Secretary). Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION (VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS).

Statement showing number of voluntary schools, on 1st January, 1906, in urban areas with a population of 5,000 and over, in urban areas with a population of less than 5,000, and in rural areas in England and Wales respectively, and their average attendance for the statistical year ended 31st July, 1905, with approximate percentages to the total number and average attendance of all the voluntary schools in England and Wales for the same period.

### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th June, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871); together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1906).

No. 625. (Foreign Written Press Telegrams)—The Telegraph (Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1906, dated 16th August, 1906.

No. 731. (Money Orders)—The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Regulations, 1906, dated 29th September, 1906.

### LUNACY (SCOTLAND).

General rules for the management of the Dundee District Asylum. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

## SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

*Lord CLONBROCK moved to amend this clause by providing that a person should not be deemed a *bona fide* traveller unless the place where he lodged during the preceding night was at least six miles distant from the place where he demanded to be supplied with liquor. The noble Lord explained that as the Bill was originally introduced into the Lower House the *bona fide* traveller limit was fixed at seven miles. This was in accordance with the recommendation of Lord Peel's Commission, and it was also one of the recommendations made in a memorial to the Lord-Lieutenant from a very large and representative conference in Dublin over which he had the honour to preside, and presented to His Excellency by a deputation which he was pleased to receive. Seven miles was therefore the limit which he as Chairman of that conference would naturally have proposed. But while the Bill was in Committee a compromise was made whereby the limit was reduced to six miles. This was agreed to by the contending parties, and the Bill passed through Committee in the House of Commons in that form.

Subsequently, however, there was a great deal of obstruction on the Report stage, and the limit was changed to five miles in the case of persons residing or lodging within the five cities not affected by the Sunday Closing Act, leaving the limit at three miles for the rest of the country. This was the provision in the Bill as it now stood. He thought it was hardly necessary to comment on the absurdity of a man who had only travelled three miles along a road being considered a *bona fide* traveller. It appeared to be such a preposterous limit that he could not understand how anybody except those directly interested in the liquor trade could defend it. When he mentioned this matter during the Second Reading debate on the previous night, he stated that he was anxious to learn the opinion of His Majesty's Government. They were always told that the present Government were very much interested in the cause of temperance, and he had hoped to hear that if no objection on principle to the Amendment was entertained by them the Government would do their best to further the passage of the Bill so amended into law. The response, however, from the noble Lord who spoke on behalf of the Government was by no means encouraging. He (Lord Clonbrock) did not wish to imperil the passing of the Bill, but at the same time he thought his Amendment was well worthy of consideration. He would very much like to hear what His Majesty's Government had to say on the matter.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 16, to leave out from the word 'person' to the word 'shall' in line 18; and in line 20, to leave out the word 'five' and to insert the word 'six.'"—(*Lord Clonbrock.*)

LORD DENMAN said it would be very difficult and he would not attempt to refute the arguments which Lord Clonbrock had used in favour of his Amendment. Indeed, he thought that the great majority of their Lordships would prefer to see the larger limit inserted in the Bill. But he must again remind the noble Lord that this was a case where there had been a compromise. It certainly appeared somewhat inconsistent, but compromises were frequently inconsistent, and in this case he did not see how it was to be avoided. He would remind the noble Lord that this was a private Bill, and it was quite impossible for the Government to undertake to give time in the other House for what would become a highly contentious measure. If the Amendment moved by Lord Clonbrock was inserted by their Lordships it would be exceedingly improbable that the Bill would pass through the other House this session. Therefore, on the ground of expediency alone, and on no other ground, he trusted the noble Lord would not press his Amendment.

*THE EARL OF MAYO said that although his noble friend Lord Clonbrock had expressed his desire not to imperil the passing of the Bill, the Amendment now before the House would, if agreed to, have that effect. He (Lord Mayo) was in a most difficult position with regard to this clause, and he thought the best thing to do would be to leave the decision upon the Amendment to their Lordships' House. He had the greatest confidence that the House would arrive at a proper conclusion with regard to this matter. He had been assured that the Government had no time to attend to private Bills during this portion of the session. Therefore, if the measure went back to the House of Commons amended in any way it would have to drop. In the interests of temperance reform, although he admitted that this was a mild measure, he hoped his noble friend would withdraw his Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said he had not intended taking any part in the discussion, but being closely associated with Ireland he had had brought to his notice by the Irish Temperance League their sincere support of the Amendment moved by Lord

Clonbrock. He quite admitted that it was a question more for the Government than for private Members to decide on the present occasion, but at the same time he did not gather from the remarks which fell from Lord Denman any good reason for retiring from the compromise which he said had been effected, and which, as far as he could gather, had given general satisfaction in Ireland. The noble Lord had said that occasionally a compromise might be gone back from, but he would be sorry himself to make a compromise under such circumstances. While he did not recommend his noble friend Lord Clonbrock to divide their Lordships on the question at the present moment, still he thought they must bring home to the supporters of temperance in Ireland that if temperance was not advocated and supported in their Lordships' House it was due entirely to the action of noble Lords opposite. If his noble friend had gone to a division he should certainly have supported him. He repeated that if temperance was not to be recognised as the policy of noble Lords opposite, they, and they alone, must be blamed.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, with reference to the remarks that have just fallen from the noble Marquess, I am afraid we cannot undertake to bear the blame for what he considers an indifferent attitude towards temperance. On the contrary, I think it is exceedingly possible that before this Parliament is very much older the noble Marquess will have opportunities for showing his enthusiasm in the cause of temperance, applied not only to Ireland but also to England.

As regards this particular case, I say frankly that, personally, I should be very glad to see the Amendment moved by Lord Clonbrock carried. I think the merits of the case are with him. But when we are told that we have gone back from a compromise I must remind the noble Marquess and the House of what occurred in another place. When the Bill left the Grand Committee it was in that form which it would assume if the noble Lord's Amendment was carried, but in a full House a debate took place, confined entirely, I think, to Members from Ireland who were interested in the Bill from different points of view, and in which His Majesty's Government did not take, at any rate, a prominent part; and I am not sure that they took any part whatever. It is a private Members' Bill and the Government were not bound in any way by the compromise which took place—a compromise between two opposing sections of Irish opinion displayed in the Grand Committee.

Very reluctantly, as I understand, those who took the stronger temperance view acquiesced in the passage of the Bill in the form in which it has come up to this House, but they did acquiesce, and there was something in the nature of a second compromise. That being so, and in view of the assurance that the passage of the Bill would be imperilled by the insertion of this Amendment, I would certainly appeal to the noble Lord not to press it. He must remember, as I think the right hon. Gentleman, Mr. Long, said in another place when speaking of temperance, that there is no subject in connection with which reform proceeds so gradually. That has been our invariable experience, and therefore I would join in the appeal to those who are interested in this question to take what they can get rather than jeopardise the Bill altogether.

THE EARL OF MEATH expressed himself in favour of the Amendment moved by Lord Clonbrock, but, in view of all the circumstances, appealed to their Lordships to pass the Bill in its present form. He was deeply interested in the temperance question and exceedingly anxious to see even this small measure placed on the Statute Book, and he therefore hoped their Lordships would give no cause to those who desired that no temperance legislation should be passed to oppose the Bill when it went back to the other House.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY had two Amendments standing in his name on the Paper which, if agreed to, would have made the provision in question read as follows, viz. :—

"For the purposes of this Act and the other Acts relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors, a person residing or lodging within the metropolitan police district of Dublin, or any of the cities of Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Belfast, shall not be deemed to be a *bonâ fide* traveller unless the metropolitan police district or any of the said cities where he lodged during the preceding night is at least five miles distant from the place where he demands to be supplied with liquor, such distance to be calculated by the nearest public thoroughfare from the boundary of the said metropolitan police district of Dublin or the municipal boundary of each of the said cities, as the case may be."

The noble Earl said he thought it would save their Lordships time if he explained that he intended to withdraw his Amendments and to support Lord Clonbrock's Amendment. The Amendments which stood in his own name would, he believed, go far to improve a measure which was in itself a step in the right direction, and a step towards establishing decency and order on the Sabbath. His Amendments would make the Bill far more effectual in removing existing abuses, but he was faced with the difficulty that if any material change was made in the Bill as brought to their Lordships' House it would seriously jeopardise any chance it might have of becoming law this session. In those circumstances he withdrew his Amendments and supported that of Lord Clonbrock, as it was based on the lines agreed upon in the compromise which took place in Grand Committee of the other House, and which was apparently reversed at the eleventh hour on the Third Reading of the measure. He hoped the noble Lord would press the Amendment, because it was the least they could do in the cause of temperance, and especially in removing the chaos which existed in the city of Belfast on the Sabbath day.

*LORD CLONBROCK felt that, after what had been said, there was no course open to him but to withdraw his Amendment. He did so solely in consequence of the attitude assumed by His Majesty's Government, and he wished to lay the responsibility, as far as he could, entirely upon them. If the present Government, with their large majority, would not move a finger to assist the passage of this Bill through the House of Commons in the event of the Amendment being carried, he could only say that he hoped they would hear less than they had of late of the fervour and enthusiasm of His Majesty's present advisers and their followers in the cause of temperance, and less of the moral obliquity of their political opponents who were supposed to be swayed by the influences of the liquor trade.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I would point out to the noble Lord who has just sat down that he is not justified in laying blame on the shoulders of His Majesty's Government. If it is so very wrong to support this compromise in order that the Bill may be passed, why does not my noble friend opposite, who has quite as large a majority, if not a larger one, at his back than we have in the House of Commons, persist in and carry his Amendment? Nothing would be easier. The blame lies upon him as much as it does upon us. I have no doubt that my noble friend takes the same view as we do, that the Amendment in itself would be advantageous, but its adoption would imperil the passing of the Bill, and that it is better to have the Bill in a less perfect condition than to lose it altogether. But to throw the blame entirely on His Majesty's Government is really the most unjust and the wildest proposition I have heard for a long time.

THE EARL OF MAYO thanked his noble friend Lord Clonbrock for consenting to withdraw his Amendment. He fully endorsed what had been said by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council. This was entirely a private Member's Bill, and one in which His Majesty's Government took no part whatever. He felt that the Bill, though it did not go as far as many wished, was a step in the right direction, and would have the effect of removing from the rising generation in Ireland many temptations to drink.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Remaining Clause agreed to, and Bill reported, without Amendment, to the House, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half past Ten o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Wednesday, 24th October*, 1906.

The House met at quarter before Three of the Clock.

### NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the Borough of Galway, in the room of Charles Ramsay Devlin, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)

## *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [Lords] (by Order)—Adjourned debate on Second Reading [9th July], further adjourned till Wednesday next.

## *PETITIONS.*

### AGRICULTURE HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION BILL.

Petition from Haddington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petition from Battle, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

### HOUSE-LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

### LAND TENURE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, against; to lie upon the Table.

### POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petition from South Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Return [presented 23rd October] to be printed. [No. 337.]

### VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

Copy presented, of Statement showing number of Voluntary Schools on 1st January, 1906, in Urban Areas with a population of 5,000 and over, in Urban Areas with a population of less than 5,000, and in Rural Areas in England and Wales respectively, and the average attendance for the Statistical year ended 31st July, 1905, with approximate percentages to the total number and average attendance of all Voluntary Schools in England and Wales for the same period [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LUNACY (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of General Rules for the Management of the Dundee District Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### TELEGRAPHS (FOREIGN WRITTEN PRESS TELEGRAMS).

Copy presented, of the Telegraph (Foreign Written Press Telegrams) Regulations 1906, dated 16th August, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 30th June, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### CONVOCATIONS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK (LETTERS OF BUSINESS).

Address for "Return of the Letters of Business issued by the Crown to the Convocations of Canterbury and York, together with any Communication from the Government that may have accompanied them."—(*Mr. Paul.*)

### LOCAL TAXATON ACCOUNT 1905–6.

Return ordered "Showing in respect of the financial year ended the 31st day of March, 1906, the distribution of the moneys paid into the Local Taxation Account in pursuance of the provisions of The Local Government Act, 1888, The Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, The Finance Act, 1894, and other Acts (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 292, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

---

### Obsolete War-Ships.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty the names of the battleships and cruisers of over 4,000 tons which were removed from the effective list in 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and during the first six months of 1906; and if he could state the names of the battleships and cruisers of over 4,000 tons on which repairs and maintenance are no longer being carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Battleships and cruisers over 4,000 tons which were placed on the non-effective list between 1st January, 1900, and 1st July, 1906:—

1900.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Battleships:— | | |
| "Triumph" | Now "Tenedos I." | Used as training ship for boy artificers. |
| "Audacious" | Now "Fisgard I." | Used as training ship for boy artificers. |
| "Invincible" | Now "Fisgard II." | Used as training ship for boy artificers. |
| Coast Defence Ship:— | | |
| "Belleisle" | | Sold. |
| Cruisers, 1st Class:— | | |
| "Minotaur" | To be named "Ganges" | Used as training ship for boys. |
| "Agincourt" | To be named "Ganges II." | Used as training ship for boys. |
| "Northumberland" | Now "Acheron" | Used as a receiving ship. |
| "Achilles" | Now "Egmont" | Flagship of Admiral Superintendent, Malta. |
| "Black Prince" | Now "Emerald" | Used as training ship for boys. |
| "Warrior" | Now "Vernon III." | To be attached to "Vernon" as a workshop. |
| Cruisers, 2nd Class:— | | |
| "Raleigh" | | Sold. |
| "Boadicea" | | Sold. |

Total—Battleships 4; Cruisers 8.

1901.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Battleships:— | | |
| "Inflexible" | | Sold. |
| "Ajax" | | Sold. |
| "Agamemnon" | | Sold. |
| "Neptune" | | Sold. |
| "Temeraire" | Now "Indus II." | Used as a workshop. |
| "Swiftsure" | Now "Orontes" | Used as a workshop for artisan ratings. |
| "Iron Duke" | | Sold. |
| Coast Defence Ships:— | | |
| "Clatton" | | Sold. |
| "Orion" | | Depôt ship Royal Naval Reserve, Malta. |
| Cruisers, 1st Class:— | | |
| "Nelson" | | Used as training ship for stokers. |
| "Northampton" | | Sold. |

Total—Battleships 9; Cruisers 2.

### 1902.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Battleship :— | | |
| "Bellerophon" | Now "Indus III." | Used as a workshop. |
| Cruiser, 2nd Class :— | | |
| "Leander" | | Depôt ship for torpedo boat destroyers. |

Total—Battleship 1 ; Cruiser 1.

### 1903.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Battleships :— | | |
| "Dreadnought" | | Repairs and maintenance not being effected at present. |
| "Alexandra" | | Repairs and maintenance not being effected at present. |
| "Superb" | | Sold. |
| "Sultan" | Now "Fisgard IV." | Training ship for boy artificers. |
| "Hercules" | | Used as barracks for Dockyard employees. |
| "Monarch" | Renamed "Simoom" | Sold. |
| Cruiser, 2nd Class :— | | |
| "Phæton" | | Used as training ship for stokers and seamen. |

Total—Battleships 6 ; Cruiser 1.

### 1904.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Coast Defence Ship :— | | |
| "Hotspur" | | Sold. |
| Cruisers, 1st Class :— | | |
| "Warspite" | | Sold. |
| "Galatea" | | Sold. |
| "Australia" | | Sold. |
| Cruiser, 2nd Class :— | | |
| "Amphion" | | Sold. |

Total—Battleship 1 ; Cruisers 4.

### 1905.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Battleships :— | | |
| "Collingwood" | | To be sold. Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| "Sans Pareil" | | Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| "Conqueror" | | Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| "Hero" | | Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| Coast Defence Ship :— | | |
| "Rupert" | | To be sold. Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| Cruisers, 1st Class :— | | |
| "Imperieuse" | Now "Sapphire II." | Depôt ship for torpedo boat destroyers. |
| "Narcissus" | | Sold. |
| "Orlando" | | Sold. |
| "Undaunted" | | To be sold. Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| "Aurora" | | To be sold. Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |
| "Immortalite" | | To be sold. Repairs and maintenance not being effected. |

1905.

Cruisers, 2nd Class :—

| | |
|---|---|
| "Arethusa" | Sold. |
| "Mersey" | Sold. |
| "Severn" | Sold. |
| "Thames" | Used as depôt ship for submarine boats. |
| "Forth" | Used as depôt ship for submarine boats. |

Total—Battleships 5 ; Cruisers 11.

1906.

Nil.

Note.—Repairs and maintenance are no longer being effected on the following battleships (in special reserve), in addition to those ships above mentioned, viz. :—

"Camperdown."
"Anson."
"Benbow."
"Thunderer."
"Rodney."
"Howe."
"Edinburgh."
"Devastation."

### Convictions of Chinese in the Transvaal.

MR. FULLERTON (Cumberland, Egremont): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, what number of Chinamen have been convicted of criminal offences in the Transvaal up to the present time; how many have been convicted for desertion; and how many for refusal to work.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) According to the figures received in this Department the number of convictions from June, 1904, to 31st July, 1906, the latest date up to which returns have been received, was 16,566. Of these 8,815 were convicted of contravention of Section 31, Sub-section 11, of the Ordinance of 1904, which includes desertion, refusal to work, and unlawful absence from work. Owing to the returns not having been drawn up on the same principle throughout, it is not possible, without reference to the Colony, to give the number of offences under each sub-head for the whole period.

### Irish Savings Bank.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the present Comptroller of the Savings Bank is retiring in the near future; and, if so, whether he intends making the transfer of the Irish work to Dublin one of the conditions on which Mr. Lang's successor is to be appointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Mr. Lang retired from the position of Controller of the Savings Bank Department on the 30th September. The transfer of the Irish Savings Bank work was not made a condition of appointment to his successor.

### Bovine Tuberculosis Report.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state when the Report of the Royal Commission on Bovine Tuberculosis will be issued; and whether he can state the total amount of expenditure upon Tuberculosis Commissions to date.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I understand that certain experiments are being made, which will not be completed until 10th November, and that it is intended that the Report and Appendix should be issued as soon after this as possible. The total amount of expenditure upon Tuberculosis Commissions up to 30th September last amounted to about £52,200.

### Meat Inspectors' Qualifications.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of of the Local Government Board, whether he will grant a continuation of the Return giving the Qualifications of Meat Inspectors in great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I presume that the Return to which my hon. friend refers is that granted so recently as 1904 with respect to London and certain large towns. It does not seem to be necessary to continue this Return at the present time, or to incur the very considerable labour and expense which would be involved if it were extended to the rest of England and Wales. The question of its extension to Scotland would be a matter for the Secretary for Scotland.

### Army Meat Supply.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been directed to the French method of supplying the Army with meat from live animals, which are driven and prepared for use by the soldiers; and whether he will consider the adoption of a similar method in the Three Kingdoms, which would insure a supply of good native meat to the troops.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) To adopt the French system of supplying the Army entirely with meat from live animals slaughtered by soldiers would necessitate a very large increase in the establishment of Army butchers and increased expense in providing abattoirs, and would thus increase the cost of the soldiers' ration considerably. A proportion of the meat issued at Aldershot, the Curragh, Shorncliffe, Chatham, and to the troops employed on manœuvres is now obtained from live cattle slaughtered by Army butchers. This is done for instructional purposes, and there is no intention of extending the system.

### Franchise Reform.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he will consider the advisability of introducing a Bill to extend the franchise, simplify and cheapen the administration of the People's Representation Act, and render it automatic in working.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) These are large and important questions which will no doubt receive the attention of His Majesty's Government in time.

---

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

---

### Military and Naval Policy.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the attention of the Board has been directed to the fact that the War Office is about to issue a work called the Army Book of the British Empire, setting forth our military policy as pursued by the nation since 1870; whether the Admiralty are co-operating; and whether the Admiralty are prepared to undertake the issue of a similar work, explaining the naval policy of the country for a number of years, and notably the new policy of 1906 in regard to the standard of naval strength.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): I understand that the War Office is preparing a revised edition of the Army Book of the British Empire which was published in 1893, but no request for co-operation in this work has been received. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the negative.

### Bermuda.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the annual Reports of the Colonial Secretary of Bermuda for 1903 and 1905, in which it is stated that the taxation per head of the inhabitants is low, and that the community can well afford increased taxation; and whether he will endeavour to obtain a contribution, in view of the fact that last year the military establishment at Bermuda cost the War Office £205,797, and even the expenditure on paying the Governer, the Militia, and the Volunteers, is borne entirely by the Imperial Government.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): My attention has been drawn to the situation and the point will not be lost sight of.

---

## NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Sir John Scurrah Randles, for the County of Cumberland (Cockermouth Division).

---

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) moved an Amendment to limit the operation of the clause, in abolishing plural voting, to the qualification in respect to ownership, allowing to remain effective the qualification in regard to occupancy. He denied that this in any way ran counter to the views expressed in the earlier debates of the Bill. The whole *gravamen* of the charge against the present system of plural voting was that, owing to the present system of property qualification, an unfair preponderance was given to those who were in possession of that qualification. The Amendment was a very moderate one; it maintained the just principle that a man should have a vote in respect of that part of the country in which his interests lay, in which, it might be, he had his works, and in which he lived his family life. This was a plea for the great middle class which hon. Members so often treated in a cavalier manner when it suited their purpose. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'elector' to insert the words 'in respect of ownership.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) had just risen to reply, when

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness), interrupting, said: On the point of order, Sir, I espy strangers.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think yesterday's vote and the promise of an opportunity of discussion ought to be taken as deciding that Question for the present. In the meantime until the House otherwise decides, I propose to take it in that way.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): May I say, Sir, that I espy different strangers from those who were present yesterday?

THE CHAIRMAN: If the right hon. Gentleman says he spies different strangers, I shall put the Question.

Question proposed, "That strangers be ordered to withdraw."

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) seated, and in accordance with the rules of the House, wearing his hat, said: I desire to ask whether the right hon. and learned Gentleman is in a position to decide whether there are fresh strangers in the House, seeing that he was not here when the decision was taken yesterday.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it that when the right hon. Gentleman said he saw different strangers he must have seen them.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 60; Noes, 220. (Division List No. 323.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Lord R. Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Charles
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)

Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry, (Staff'sh)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Stanley Wilson and Sir William Bull.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)

Thorne, William
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. HARCOURT said that the hon. Member had misinterpreted the Government view of the Bill. The Government had no objection to a vote merely because it was founded on real estate. Their objection was to the plurality of votes by individuals from whatever source they might arise; and he was not sure that the hon. Member realised the extent of his Amendment. He thought that it would lead to an individual, in respect of his ownership, of his occupancy, of his vote for a University or as a freeman or liveryman, having his claims preferred, and this was obviously so contrary to the principle and intention of the Bill that the Amendment could not be accepted by the Government.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 65: Noes, 236. (Division List No. 324.)

## AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell O.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh)
Thornton, Percy M.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Mitchell-Thomson and Sir William Bull.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs. Leigh
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thos. Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.

Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southamp'n
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) moved an Amendment which he stated would have the effect of changing the present form of the Bill, which was that no man should have more than one vote in a constituency, and extend it by granting him the power to vote in separate counties, or, as in the case of Yorkshire, in separate ridings of the same county. That was a concession which might reasonably be asked for on the ground that although there might be some injustice in one man voting twice in the same district, in the case of his holding property in different counties the objection would not arise. He could not see why a man should not be allowed to vote, say, in Kent, simply because he had already voted in Yorkshire. Hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to be ready to give him an answer to that. He should be very glad to have it. How would the injustice be the same where the property lay so far apart? The preponderance of voting strength in the district might be supposed to be a hardship by those who did not possess it, but what injustice would be inflicted on any individual by this Amendment? The answer might be given that if not an individual perhaps a party might suffer injustice. If that was the answer to his Amendment he could only fall back on the classic words of the present Patronage Secretary when he sat on the other side, and in dealing with a similar Bill said it was simply an attempt to dish the Unionist Party.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): It is his business to do so.

MR. LANE-FOX said if that was the reason for the opposition to his Amendment, the real object of the Bill would be plain to the country outside. Large interests were affected and his proposal involved only a particularly small concession.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'in any county or in any riding of a county.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said that the Amendment was a direct infringement of the whole principle of the Bill, which was to prohibit one person from exercising more than one vote. The Amendment would make the exercise of the vote a mere question of the geographical distribution of property. If the hon. Member for Barkston Ash were to have more than one vote, would it not be better for him to exercise them all in the West Riding, where he was sure they would be more appreciated than in Kent? He could not make exceptions for different counties while prohibiting men from voting in the various divisions of the same county.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said that there was a precedent for the Amendment. The old Radical doctrine of taxation and representation came in when a man had interests both in Kent and in Yorkshire. Hitherto alterations in the franchise had been in the direction of extending it. It was left for hon. Gentlemen opposite, who were always talking of reactionary legislation, to suggest that the franchise should be curtailed.

MR. STANLEY WILSON supported the Amendment, which he thought a most excellent one. Surely where a man had property and paid rates on it in different counties he should be entitled to record his vote in each county. That was absolute common sense. The Bill, if passed, would effect a great constitutional change, and he for one earnestly hoped that the House of Lords would not allow it to go further. ["Oh!"]

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) said that the assumption of the Government was that the elector had only one interest to consider—the national interest—and that wherever a man might reside, even if it were in Yorkshire for one six months and in Kent the remainder of the year, that interest remained the same. But the Government entirely overlooked the fact that much of the business of the House was concerned with the special and particular interests of localities. He held qualifications for London and for Worcestershire. Under this Bill, if he chose to vote in London he would no longer be a constituent of his own Member in Worcestershire, where he had lived many years, where he owned property, and with which he was intimately concerned, and his representations would no longer receive attention. That was a serious matter, because his Member would be able to disregard his protest and he would be unable to give effect to his protest by voting against the Member. Many people would be deprived of protection for large and substantial interests if they were not allowed to vote in every constituency where those interests were centred.

MR. HARCOURT said that matters of local concern were dealt with by the House through Committees, whose Members had to declare that neither they nor their constituents had any personal interests involved. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to remain a constituent of his Member, he had the opportunity of selecting where he would vote every year. If, as a voter in the City of London, he were becoming dissatisfied with his representation, he could return to his earlier love in East Worcestershire. This Amendment was directed, not to taxation's following representation, but to taxation's carrying with it over-representation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that the right hon. Gentleman had given a false impression of a very interesting and rather difficult part of our constitutional practice. It was true that every Member ought to be returned with a view to dealing with national and Imperial affairs. That was the primary function of the House, but it was not its only function. That Members of Committees had to give some undertaking of their wholly independent attitude did not affect the fact that every Member was expected not only to look after national interests, but the interests of his particular constituency when they were affected by legislation. The Member for a constituency affected by a private Bill had not only the right but the duty of acting as the advocate of his constituency, though his advocacy might properly be overruled by the judgment of the House. The primary duty of the electors to return a Member who would support the policy best for the country was not inconsistent with the right to consider the more particular and less diffused and important interests bound up in the localities. This Bill said that certain citizens whose interests were closely bound up in localities should have no voice in choosing the Members to represent them. That was undoubtedly a blot. When Amendments were brought forward limiting the scope of the Bill, the right hon. Gentleman ought not to put them off by saying that they were contrary to the principle of the Bill. The business of the Committee was to see whether the broad principle ought not to be mitigated in accordance with the plain interests of the country or the historical precedents of a free constituion.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) remarked that a man might have property in a good many counties, and in respect of that property he might have votes for a large number of county councils. We had many county councils, but only one Parliament, and that was why plural voting could be logically allowed for local government, but was contrary to the spirit of the Constitution for the Imperial Parliament. How many votes would the leader of the Opposition give a working man? A vote was of far more importance to a poor man than to a rich one. [Cries of "Why?"] Because he suffered far more from bad laws. The rich man was better able to protect himself. If there was any difference at all—he did not hold there should be—he would say, "Give votes to a man in proportion to his poverty and not in proportion to his property."

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said the Government apparently did not appreciate the importance of the arguments advanced. There was no doubt the franchise was exercised by electors partly for Imperial reasons and partly for local reasons. The two theories ran side by side, and no one had ever succeeded in saying exactly where the line should be drawn between the two. It was still part of the duty of a Member to represent the interests of the locality. So long as a man was both a local representative and an Imperial representative the Amendment before the Committee was a reasonable one, and he hoped it would be adopted.

SIR F. BANBURY pointed out that the declaration of non-personal interest was only made by Members of Committees on private Bills. There were stages, however, far more important than the Committee stage, and Bills were often supported or opposed by Members on the ground that the proposals interfered with their constituencies. No Unionist wanted to disqualify the poor man or anyone else. They wanted equal laws for all. The Member for Northampton was dragging in something he hoped would be popular in the country, but which had in fact nothing to do with this question.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 81; Noes, 301. (Division List No. 325.)

## AYES.

Acland-Hood, RtHn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, HnMichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Collings, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col.H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W(Evesham
Lowe, Sir Lrancis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lane-Fox and Sir Frederick Banbury.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C.B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H.(Essex, Romford)
Bilson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedf'dshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt.HnSydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.HnRichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, JM.(Aberdeen W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter.
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Leese, Sir Joseph F(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt.Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G
Maddison Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (WMonm'th
Richards, T.F(Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirGScott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitehead, Rowland )
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn.C.H.W(Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P.W.(St. Pancras, S.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whitely and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) moved an Amendment, the effect of which would be to except from the first clause of the Bill the Universities, so that a man who had a vote in his own home might, if a graduate of a University, vote there also.

The Bill as it stood would, he believed, actually destroy the University vote. In almost every case, unless a man were a resident at his college, he would choose his home as the place in which to give his vote, and the effect would be to deplete the list of University voters to such an extent that in a few years there would be a strong case for abolishing the University vote altogether. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] The cheer given by hon. Members opposite meant that under the guise of giving a University man power to choose where he should vote, they were really intending to destroy University voting. He had not forgotten an expression used by the First Commissioner of Works in dealing with this Bill on a former occasion, when he said that the effect of that Bill might be that Universities would be bled white—a phrase borrowed, he supposed, from the shambles. This Bill then was intended to destroy the University vote. Was that a good thing? He thought not. More and more children of parents of moderate means were reaching the Universities, so that he was not merely pleading the cause of the rich man. To destroy the University vote would make our constitution poorer than it now was. There were nations where some kind of educational qualification was required for voting. We had not got that system here; but that great Liberal, John Stuart Mill, used to say that education ought to be a qualification for the franchise, and he went so far as to say he would give a plural vote on the ground of education. The University vote was the sole trace in our constitution of an educational qualification, and hon. Members opposite ought to hesitate before removing it. Had not the House and country benefited by the presence of University representatives, among whom had been Mr. Lowe and Mr. Gladstone? There were constantly questions before the House relating to education, on which the Universities were specially qualified to give an opinion. There was not a single University Member of the present House who did not take an active and prominent part in the debates on the Education Bill. [A laugh.] It happened that all of them were opposed to the main principles of the Government measure, but he did not think that hon. Members who laughed would say that was a reason for abolishing the University vote. Putting that aside, he thought he was right in saying that the University vote was a valuable asset in this House, and it would be a retrograde step to abolish it. An hon. Member had just said that the true principle was, the greater the poverty the more votes. He would rather say, the greater the fitness for voting the more votes. He saw on the Front Bench opposite men he had looked up to as leaders at the Universities. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who enjoyed a greater prestige at the University than any Member could enjoy in this House, would doubtless have been surprised in those days if he had been told that he would be a party to a Bill for destroying the franchise given to his own University. There were others on the opposite Benches of whom the same might be said. He was not without hope that an exception would be made by the Government in this Bill in respect to the Universities. No possible harm could be done to anybody, and it would only be preserving a principle that had been accepted with favour by Members on both sides.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'other than a University constituency.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said the hon. Member who had moved this Amendment was really mistaken in attributing to him or to any other members of the Government any intention of killing University representation in any indirect way. They did not believe for a moment that that would be the effect of the Bill. The hon. Member had talked of the Bill as though it disfranchised the University. It gave to every voter in the University the power of selection. If this form of franchise was so greatly valued there was a very large proportion of those who possessed it who would exercise their voting power at the University. The hon. Member had alluded to a phrase which he might have very incautiously used about Universities being bled white, and which the hon.

Member thought he got from "The Shambles." It was Prince Bismarck who used it in Paris. In making use of the phrase he was not suggesting that the Universities should be bled white, but only expressing surprise that the friends of the Universities should think such a proceeding possible by the graduates who had the advantage of passing through a University career. He still felt that surprise. It was quite true that men of moderate means, and even poor men, were going much more to Universities, but to the poor man the University vote was not so easy as to the rich. The University vote depended not on the education but on the fee which was paid.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): May I correct the right hon. Gentleman as regards that, because in Dublin University any man who gets a scholarship gets a vote.

SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and and Aberdeen Universities): In Scotland also no fee beyond that of taking a degree is necessary.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London Univerity) also rose.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think hon. Members need keep interrupting, as they can correct any misunderstanding later.

MR. HARCOURT said these were not questions of order, but of information. He admitted that his information as to Scotland and Ireland and London was not so good as it was about other Universities in this country, but at all events at several of the larger Universities the vote was dependent on taking the M.A. degree. The process of taking the M.A. degree added nothing to the educational qualification of the man who had taken his B.A., but it was a slight obstacle to the poorer man. If they wanted an educational qualification he thought Durham, Birmingham and Manchester Universities were at present placed at a disadvantage in not having some special representation. That, however, was not the system in this Bill. The anomaly would remain, and the Government were not proposing to remove University representation, but they left every man his own choice. There were a great many residents to whom the University was a place of greatest interest, but there were also many birds of passage. He had no doubt whatever that under this Bill the Universities would preserve a sufficient number of voters to entitle them to representation so long as that particular form of franchise was maintained. In this way they would preserve the system which had in many cases, he was happy to say, given them such brilliant representatives in this House.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said that more than one attempt had been made this session to destroy University representation by raising side issues. The present Bill was beyond all doubt a measure for disfranchising the Universities by instalments. It was just as well that they should be quite candid upon this matter. If they gave to electors scattered throughout the country the choice of voting either for a University representative whom they did not know personally, whom they had never seen, whose qualifications, whatever they might be, were detached from local interests, or for a candidate known to each constituency, and intimately associated with its affairs, was it not inevitable that the greater number of the electors would prefer to vote in their own localities? And once the University electors were in this way reduced to 300 or 400 residents, in the case of Oxford and Cambridge, and possibly to fewer still in other Universities, would it not be said that it was a monstrous thing for these contemptible little constituencies to return Members to Parliament? He thought it would be more fair to attack University representation directly. It certainly was very remarkable to notice how little impression great inequalities seemed to make upon hon. Gentlemen opposite, while to minor anomalies they were highly sensitive. They thought nothing of the Member for Kilkenny being elected by 1,500 voters as compared with the 45,500 electors in the Romford division of Essex. This disparity was thirty to one, and the Government did not propose to touch it. But because nine men were returned for University seats under a system which he quite admitted was anomalous, they were resolved to kill that representation by indirect and gradual methods. He agreed that if they were starting *de novo* to constitute their electoral system, they probably would not bring in University representation; but that was a very different thing from upsetting an existing system, for which there were many powerful arguments. Did anyone in the House believe that if the nine Members representing University constituencies were not Unionists, they would have heard a word against plural voting for these seats? He was aware that hon. Gentlemen opposite would say, Yes, you represent old and effete corporations, Conservative bodies; but what about the Universities of Scotland, the most democratic in the world? for they too returned Unionist Members. Under the present electoral system a peculiar privilege was given to illiterates, who were exempt from the ordinary regulations affecting voters; and in certain parts of the land on the last occasion where large bodies of electors came to the poll as many as one in six voted as illiterate. He asked why learning and knowledge should not claim representation in that House, even if it involved a slight anomaly, under a system which made illiterates a privileged class. He could not but believe that organised knowledge was in the near future about to be a far greater force in the life of the community than it had ever been before; and that there would be an increasing number of questions in which it was important that the House should hear expert and authoritative statements, more especially on the application of science to the industrial and educational life of this country. It might be said those who represented the Universities did not as individuals justify this claim. But however great their deficiencies might be as individuals, they were nevertheless the mouthpiece of a learned body of men who represented the intellect of the country; [Cries of "No, no"] well, the more educated intellect of the country; in spite of their own shortcomings they had had behind them the collective voice of those great constituencies. He put this to the Committee more as a question of interest to the State than as a question of the maintenance of an anomaly. Was it not to the interest of the State that the House of Commons should reflect as many phases and forms of the intellectual life of the country as possible? He doubted whether men like the late Mr. Lecky, or Sir Richard Jebb, would ever have been heard in the House of Commons if they had had to seek popular election. The House with its varied elements would certainly be impoverished if they cut off the Universities from direct representation. He had lately visited the University of Manchester, and those who were acquainted with the great and growing new Universities must realise how academic and civil life were coming into close and vital relations with one another in a way never known before. And if these younger Universities were as yet unrepresented, was that a reason for destroying all University representation? He begged to support the Amendment which had been moved by his hon. friend.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said he was a little surprised to hear from so able and fair-minded a controversialist as his hon. friend who had just sat down the suggestion that the Government had crudely and illogically brought the Universities within the scope of this Bill because it so happened that at this moment they returned a solid Unionist representation to the House. That was a suggestion not very worthy of his hon. friend, and it was entirely foreign to the actual facts. It must be obvious to everybody who considered the real scope and effect of the Bill that the illogical proceeding would have been not to apply to the Universities the same kind of treatment that they applied to all other constituencies in the country. They were not putting plural electors who had a University qualification in any different position from plural electors who had qualifications elsewhere. They said to them, as they said to the rest, "Choose for which of these various constituencies you will vote." He was not going into the question, because he did not conceive it to be raised by the Bill, of the merits or demerits of University representation. He had very strong opinions about it, but he did not think this was the time to discuss it. But in view of the remarks that had fallen from hon. Gentlemen opposite, he must point out that there was a singular misconception abroad on the subject. University representation in this House, if they excepted the two ancient Universities of Oxford and

Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin, was a very modern product indeed. It was the invention of Lord Beaconsfield. On a celebrated occasion he told the House of Commons that he invented the seat for London University in order to provide Mr. Lowe with a place in this House, which otherwise he did not think he could have easily got. As to the Scottish Universities, they had no representation at all until the Act of 1868. They were dealing, therefore, so far as the Bill dealt with Universities, with a very modern institution. While he quite agreed that the ancient Universities had been represented by very distinguished Members, yet he thought some hon. Members must have thought from time to time as they had seen those great scholars and mathematicians sitting silent on these Benches hour after hour, and trudging drearily through the Division Lobbies, that perhaps their time and energies might have been better occupied if they had remained in the sequestered seclusion of the great seats of learning from which they were unhappily sent to mix in the uncongenial turmoil of political parties in this House. He must further point out that the qualification for a University vote was the possession in our ancient Universities of an M.A. degree, and an M.A. degree could be acquired by anybody who had passed a not very difficult examination and was prepared to pay a sum of £20 or £25. He had not himself got a vote, because he had never been prepared to pay the £25, although a graduate of Oxford. Anyone who was acquainted with the real facts of University life in these days knew that when they came to a Parliamentary election the votes of the men of distinction and learning, the men who were carrying on the real work of the University, who were its ornament and pride, who gave it its vitality and prestige in the world of learning, were swamped and overridden by those who come in by hundreds and thousands from outside, and who by virtue of this M.A. degree, for which they had paid their £20 or £25, were enabled to pose as the real representatives of learning. The more they came to examine this question of the representation of learning in our representative system the more the whole thing turned out to rest on a very flimsy foundation. This was a Bill which said that if a man had by virtue of a degree a vote for a University and had also by virtue of ownership a vote for a borough or a county, he must elect which of those qualifications he would exercise. It was said that this would be draining the Universities of their life-blood and reducing their representation to a mere sham. He doubted whether it would do anything of the kind. He could quite well conceive the case of a man, a clergyman, who had a vote for Oxford or Cambridge, and occupied a parsonage in one of those Radical-ridden constituencies—say, in South Wales—asking himself at a general election of which of those two qualifications he could make the more serviceable use—whether he should vote as one of a hopeless minority in the place in which he lived, or whether he should go to Cambridge in order, by keeping out such a dangerous person as Sir John Gorst, to prevent that University from doing further mischief to the House of Commons. It did not pass the bounds of one's imagination to conceive a voter in that situation saying to himself, "No, I will be starred on the University list." He did not say he should make that choice himself, proud as he was of the distinguished men who represented his University, but then, as he had said, he had not got a vote. The Government had dealt perfectly fairly and impartially as between the Universities and the other constituencies of the country, and the effect of giving this option of University voting would in all probability be not to denude the Universities of their voting power, but to leave it where he ventured to think, so long as University representation was maintained, it ought to reside—to leave it with the residents on the spot, the men who were actually engaged in the life and daily work of the University. On these grounds the Government must resist the Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right Gentleman who had just sat down apologised for introducing that part of his speech which dealt with University representation on the ground that, as he said, it was irrelevant to the debate. It was of the essence of the debate. The Government seemed to have been taken in by the title of their own Bill. From the title of their own Bill it would be supposed that this was simply a plan for punishing what in their view they regarded as an offence against true constitutional principle—namely, voting in more than one place. But they knew perfectly well that this Bill by its direct and immediate effect was going to make a profound change in the practice and principles of representation in this country. It was a Reform Bill in disguise. It differed from former Reform Bills in that it disfranchised instead of enfranchising; but, nevertheless, it resembled all other Reform Bills in that it touched great and important questions connected with the composition of this House, and the character of constituencies from which this House derived its strength. Therefore it was impossible for the Government to say that this Bill was a mere method of dealing with certain small anomalies. That was not so; and when the Government went on to say that this Bill not only was not designed to touch University representation, but, as a matter of fact, would not touch it in any effective or dangerous fashion, they must know perfectly well that such a contention was altogether unworthy of the consideration of a practical body of men. Differing from the Government view, he did not regard votes given by the Constitution of this country as a privilege of the individual. He regarded them as a method of obtaining the best composition they could for this House; and he, of course, thought that in considering that composition they ought never to ignore the historical and traditional growth by which the Constitution had become what in fact it was. If they looked at the individual, whether he preferred voting for Kent or Oxford, if they considered the composition of this House, ought they not to take precautions that the voter would be left with the duty thrown upon him of selecting a Member for this House? If University representation was, as he thought it was, a valuable element in the Constitution, why were they going to leave it to the haphazard preference of the particular voter who could vote either in his University or his place of residence? Did the illustration of the right hon. Gentleman represent the principle on which the Government desired to select the place where University voters were going to vote under this Bill? If so, let him tell the right hon. Gentleman that it was an extremely bad one. It was quite true that many of them had experience of residing in, and having votes for, constituencies which seemed permanently alien to them in opinions. They might be Radical inhabitants of a Unionist division, or Unionist inhabitants of a Radical division. [An HON. MEMBER: More likely.] It was quite true that hon. Members on this side were in a minority now. How long did the hon. Member think that condition of things might last? Let them endeavour to abstract their minds from these passing misfortunes. At all events, it would be admitted that it was a very common fortune for individuals to find that they were in a minority in the place in which they dwelt, but he did not think they ought to abandon their post on that account, whatever their politics might be. He did not think it was a good course for a man to transfer his whole political influence from the place where for the moment he might be in a minority in order to be able to shout somewhere else with the largest crowd, to quote the immortal words of Pickwick There was another point to which if they were to discuss, as he thought they must now discuss, University representation the Committee really ought to devote attention. They were by a side wind, and not even informing the constituencies of what they were doing, altering the historical constitution of the country. The right hon. Gentleman had said, so far as the Scottish Universities and London University were concerned, the historical basis of the constitution did not go back much more than a generation. That was true, but in regard to the three ancient Universities it went back to immemorial antiquity, and in any case the period during which the system had worked well was not, after all, a period which they could wipe out with either indifference or contempt. The Government appeared to think the time had come when we ought to smooth down all the historical anomalies, as they called them. What was an anomaly? An anomaly he took to be an exception to an admitted principle or rule. Was it that every adult male or adult ratepayer should have an equal influence in the affairs of the country? Was that the principle on which the University representation stood out like an anomaly or exception? Every one knew that there was no equality now between the male voters in this country; not only so, but that the inequality was one which the Government did not propose to redress. Why talk of University representation as an anomaly? Why condemn it as an anomaly when they had a far greater anomaly staring them in the face and which they refused to touch or modify in the smallest degree? Was the general principle or rule, to which University representation was an accident, that every adult person should have an influence or a voice in the representation of the country? They all knew—no one knew better than the Chancellor of the Exchequer—that there was the question of allowing all adults, irrespective of the accident of sex, to have an equal influence in the election of this House; and again, it was a principle which had no existence in the present constitutional practice of this country. If that were the principle, our present practice was an anomaly, and again, it was an anomaly which the Government did not intend to touch or to modify. In these circumstances, what was the use of coming down, as the Government came down, and talking about the logic of their Bill and of the anomalies which they meant to remove? He altogther dissociated himself individually from those who approached this question of the franchise in the spirit of the theoretical doctrinaire. He did not agree with those who thought that there was a clear, a normal, an obvious rule of representative Government, and that any exception to that rule was to be treated as an anomaly to be cut out by the knife of the legislative surgeon. He did not agree with that. Those who did agree with it ought not to bring in Bills like this measure, and when they did they ought to indicate clearly when they wished to attack such an exception in the constitution as University representation in this country. He looked at either of the franchise questions raised by this Bill in a very different way, and he ventured to think in not a less wise spirit than the doctrinaire politican. They must take these things in the historic setting of the constitutional development of the country. They must, of course, from time to time modify that constitution. Circumstances changed, society grew, new needs had to be met, old instruments had to be modified. But when from time to time the necessity of these modifications arose, was it prudent merely to base their changes on those abstract principles which they themselves had not the courage to carry out? What they should do was to say, "Here is an element in our constitution which has an historic past behind it; we have seen its working with this or that consequence; is there a real ground for changing it? Has anything occurred to require us, by the adoption of a Bill, to drag it up and the constitution by the roots?"; and if the answer was in the negative, then the course which any prudent man, any man who recognised how the condition of society at every moment depended upon its historic antecedents, every man who recognised that no folly was so great as to try to break unnecessarily with the past, would say, "This is a part of our system; it works well and smoothly; it produces no great hardship; let it remain." Now had this particular part of our constitutional machinery worked ill? He said that it had worked admirably. He quite admitted that it must be open to the charge that for the most part University representation had been in accordance with his own political convictions. That was so; but the House would do him the justice to believe that at the present time he was trying to argue the question altogether in abstraction, and away from the particular balance of parties at particular moments. There was a period in his political life when he was deeply bitten with what was called the principle of Mr. Hare's scheme for accurately representing minorities in every constituency, and he did not deny that there was much to be said for it. But he had changed his views on this subject for reasons that it was not relevant he should give to the House now. He did not believe, however, that the minority representation of Mr. Hare's plan, or anything like it, would be an improvement in our constitution; but he still held to the opinion which he held in earlier days, that it was an enormous disadvantage to the House if our general system of election excluded a certain class of opinion, be it what it might, and prevented a certain type of character from coming into it, not by formal exclusion, but by the natural operation of electoral causes. His hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University, who had made a most interesting speech, had quoted two names which were worthy of being quoted, because they were those of hon. Gentlemen who were personally know to the majority of the House—the late Sir

Richard Jebb and Mr. Lecky. No one would deny that these two men were a most admirable and valuable element in the councils of the nation. They never got up to address the House without Members crowding in to hear what they had to say, for the House recognised that they did not belong to the ordinary run of politicians, such as they sitting on both sides of the House, belonged to. They imported an element not easy to be found in the average candidate. The second proposition he put forward was that under our existing electoral system that particular type of man would never have gone through the rough and tumble of a hard contested election.

MR. ASQUITH: John Stuart Mill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not think that the right hon. Gentleman's memory extended to the circumstances of Mr. Mill's election, neither did his own; but he ventured to think that the statement was unanswerable. The sort of ordeal through which the vast majority of members had to go, to which they in the House were inured, not with much relish, but with great searchings of heart—this type of man would be most reluctant to pass, and probably would pass very ineffectively. He did not think that Mr. Mill would have got into the House if he had had a very formidable opponent or unless he had been lucky enough to stand for a favourable constituency, and he did not know that he would have shone in the hammer-and-tongs work of a hard-fought electoral controversy. At all events, it would be admitted, and must be admitted, that they did get in by University representation, a class of men whom they would not easily secure in any other way; and he ventured to maintain that it was an enormous advantage to this Assembly that there should be a basis of variety in it. There was a basis of variety in the old system. No one would restore it if he could—he meant the pre-1832 representation, the era of the rotten boroughs—even if he had it in his power; but would any student of history deny that they did get a certain number of men in that way not easily to be obtained in any other way? Everyone knew what the argument he advanced was, and everyone agreed with it—that the system itself was bad, that the results were bad, but that it did produce variety. He was not sure that large and purely democratic constituencies, such as now existed almost everywhere except in Ireland [Laughter, and an HON. MEMBER: The City of London] could avoid naturally bringing to the front men of a type to which they all belonged, a type which might have a certain sameness about it. There were certain qualities that were necessary for a successful candidate—not always, perhaps, the highest qualities—but, at all events, he thought they would admit that to allow nine men to come into the House through the portals of historic institutions which were exercising a growing and not a diminishing effect on the life and on the councils of the nation, was not a thing they need regret. Why, then, shut up this avenue by which a small but valuable class of men got in and provide no substitute for it? He thought that the Committee would be most foolish, for the reasons he had given, if it were to abolish University representation; but he was still more certain that to bring forward a Bill which did not profess to abolish University representation, which did not, in any clear manner, raise the issue, which raised it really, but not formally, was to trifle with the constitution. If the Government wished to deal with a great constitutional matter let them deal with it openly, squarely, directly, in a proposal they could fight out on the floor of this House, and not in a Bill which all except its authors admitted was predestined to destroy University representation, and which received favour from behind right hon. Gentlemen opposite because it was going to destroy University representation. Why did the Government bring forward, sailing under false colours, this insidious measure, and then get up and tell them that the question of University representation was, after all, not before the Committee? They were not only asking the Committee to take a course very contrary to the interests of the country, but they were doing this under a pretext so empty, so flimsy, that he could not find words to express his surprise that any Government should condescend to take such a course.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) said this was a very important point and he proposed to discuss it without any reference to sex. There were a great many disadvantages in following the right hon. Gentleman in debate, but he felt himself peculiarly fortunate in that the right hon. Gentleman, one of the most cultivated members of that Assembly, had made it his business to show that extreme cultivation was a drawback to obtaining the favour of a popular constituency. That, however, was not the opinion of the City of London, and it was not for many years the opinion of East Manchester. He had to apologize to his hon. and learned friend who moved the Amendment for putting to him an irregular question, but he thought it would be admitted to be not altogether an irrelevant question. His hon. and learned friend referred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a most eminent representative of the University of Oxford, and he asked, had he a vote? They had now heard from his right hon. friend that he had none, and that had a material bearing on the question. Upon one point he disagreed with his right hon. friend and agreed with the right hon. Gentleman opposite as to the character of the Bill. The Bill did virtually, though indirectly, abolish the representation of Universities, and he was glad of it. As a democrat, he objected to the principle of special representation; but if he thought that the Universities of this country, with their intellectual capacity, were really represented in the House he would leave it to some one whose debt of gratitude was less than his own to propose the extinction of that representation. It was because he believed that the alleged representation of the Universities was a sham—because he knew it was regarded by many of the most illustrious ornaments of the Universities as being an insult to them that he would always oppose it. He would take the two great English Universities and say nothing of the Scottish, for a reason which, though not always prevalent in the House, was still a good reason—he knew nothing about them. What was the passport to a vote for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge? There are no doubt some sort of intellectual test for obtaining the degree of B.A., a very mild and humble test, and the Labour Members would think very little of it, but that conferred no vote. No man could obtain the University vote unless he paid a sum of money, which he might not be able to afford, for a Master's degree. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was Doctor of Civil Law, but he had no vote, because the degree was conferred for distinguished merit and not in consideration of paying a sum of money. And this was called intellectual representation! The constituents of the Universities were chiefly country clergymen who certainly should have votes for the places where they lived. They took the Master's degree for the well-known reason that it favourably affected their personal appearance in conducting Divine worship. If a clergyman remained a bachelor too long, it was cause of inquiry among the congregation, especially the female part of it. It was perfectly true the Universities had sent, and did send, some most distinguished Members to this House; but were they, as the right hon. Gentleman appeared to hint, men who could not obtain seats for any other constituency? The senior Member for Cambridge was a scholar of more than European reputation, an ornament to the University, who added distinction and dignity to the debates in the House. What better successor than he could be found to the gallant, fair-minded Colonel Saunderson, whose loss was not less lamented on that side of the House than on the other? The junior Member for Cambridge had a forensic attitude that should induce competition among Conservative boroughs for the honour of giving him a general retainer. The senior Member for Oxford had represented that University so long that it was sometimes forgotten that for ten years he represented, no doubt with equal distinction, a division of the county of Kent. His colleague stood once —*horruit referens*—as a Liberal for a division of Stafford, and, though defeated from the accident of there being a preponderance of Conservative voters in the constituency at the time, no other disqualification could be suggested. How had the Universities dwelt with their illustrious representatives in the past? How did Oxford deal with Mr. Gladstone? Was ever a man better qualified to represent a University in the House? Without saying a word of disrespect of Lord Cranbrook, almost the oldest of living politicians, it could not be said he had higher qualifications than Mr. Gladstone. Why was Robert Peel turned out of the representation of Oxford? Protestant as he was—Orange Peel he was called—he desired to do justice to his Catholic fellow-subjects, and the University for that reason substituted Sir Robert Inglis. Perhaps all Members in the House did not know Macaulay's couplet—Sir Robert was then Mr. Peel—

> "Then called out all the Doctors in the Divinity School,
> Not this man, but Sir Robert; now Sir Robert was a fool."

Sir Robert Inglis was not a fool; he was, on the contrary, a country gentleman; but no one would dream of comparing his academic qualifications with those of Peel. Mr. Peel was rejected by the University because he desired to do a great act of justice to a large portion of his fellow-countrymen. Had any other constituency done this?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Macaulay was rejected at Edinburgh for a similar reason—Catholic emancipation.

MR. PAUL said Catholic emancipation had been passed many years when Edinburgh rejected Macaulay; he believed a vote for the Maynooth grant was an element in Macaulay's want of success; but it was not a parallel case. It was one thing to say that Roman Catholics in this country should not be allowed to sit in Parliament and another to say that this House was not to give a Vote for the education of denominational clergy. He was quite confident that if they wanted to carry out the great object of representative government, to get the most competent Assembly within the House of Commons, the most efficient way was to trust the people and to give no special form of representation to any set of people who considered themselves better educated than their neighbours, and were often far worse, and who had shown in the past, he would not say in the present, blank indifference to the greatest measures of progress ever proposed for the benefit of this land.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had told the Committee that the last thing he wished to discuss was University representation—that the Bill had nothing to do with it; and that he desired to avoid the discussion of such a question. It was because the right hon. Gentleman, contrary to his own undertaking, had entered so largely into the merits and the necessity or want of utility of University representation that he (Sir Henry Craik) had been tempted to rise and speak in favour of that representation, not on personal grounds, but because he was bound to speak on behalf of his constituents. The right hon. Gentleman at great length and with much vehemence had told the Committee that he had been prevented by his exiguity of means from becoming an elector of the University of Oxford. He was the more surprised at the right hon. Gentleman's statement as the right hon. Gentleman was one of his own constituents. In the case of the constituency he represented, the representatives attained their proud position of being the constituents of these Universities without any of the arduous and exaggerated payment which the right hon. Gentleman lamented in the case of Oxford. Speaking as he was bound to speak of University representation in Scotland, he asked could anything be a greater travesty of the truth than the description which the right hon. Gentleman had given of such representation when he said it was a representation of one privileged class, open only to those who could pay some large sum of money? The very contrary was the fact. Every graduate of those Universities was bound to become a registered elector. He could not take his degree without at the same time becoming qualified as an elector. Did the right hon. Gentleman think the electors of Glasgow and Aberdeen and other Universities of Scotland were people belonging to a rich and privileged and idle class likely to trample on their fellow men? They would be almost entitled to that additional representation which the hon. Member for Northampton claimed for some electors on the ground of poverty. They claimed no great antiquity, and could not therefore be considered as effete relics of the past. It was only forty years since Parliament in its wisdom thought that representation in this House would be added to and not injured, benefited and not lowered, by representation of the Universities of Scotland. Nor had the representation been always of one colour or political opinion. There had been more than once notable members of the Liberal Party who had represented Edinburgh and St. Andrew's. There was one point he would venture to put before the Committee which specially bore upon this Amendment. In Scotland the University elector regarded himself as voting specially to represent the interests of education and of the higher professions. He appealed to Members representing Scottish constituencies to say whether they were not aware of men in their own constituencies who voted to place those hon. Members in the seats they now occupied and who voted in the University constituencies without having regard to their own political opinions. He knew that that was so. He knew as a fact that he had himself to be grateful for the votes of many electors who belonged to and ranked themselves as members of the Liberal Party. That experience was not solitary in University representation. Many electors in the University representation voted as people charged with the special duty of guarding the interests of science, literature and education. They were constantly told the University elections were swamped by the country parson. Nothing was further from the truth. The parsons and the doctors spread throughout the country districts, who helped in local administration and took a strong part in the political discussions in the neighbourhood in which they lived, at the same time used with scrupulous care their University vote for the advantage of this House and the advantage of the constitution and the government of the country—except, perhaps, when they selected as their representative one so little worthy of the honour as himself.

*Mr. MADDISON (Burnley) said that some strong pleas had been made for University representation, and the working classes, he thought, tried to understand generally the advantage it might be to the nation. But there was really only one test in this House, and that was the test of utility. What had been the influence of these learned Gentlemen who had come to this House from the Universities? What was their record? What had they done in the struggle for popular education? He ventured to say that every educational reform had as a rule met with the resistance of the University representatives. Then let them take the factory legislation, which surely should come in the category of legislation of a non-Party character. Had any University representative shown any conspicuous desire for factory legislation? On the contrary, they had been below the average, and when they came to electoral reforms, every attempt to widen the franchise so as to make it embrace a larger number of working men had met with resistance from these Gentlemen. The Leader of the Opposition had pleaded for University representation on the ground that it was necessary as a door to let in such great men as the late Mr. Leckie who would never pass through the fight of a well-contested election. But nobody would say that the right hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, one of the Members for the Dublin University, would not have found his way into this House even though he did not represent a University constituency. He would find his way into the House under any circumstances, and was one of the best fighters in the House. Yet there was this fancy picture drawn by the Leader of the Opposition, that these University constituencies were desirable as refuges for men who otherwise would never enter Parliament. The working classes did not oppose University representation because of any cynical objections to it, but because of its inutility. They had a great respect for those who in the Universities had done so much for labour.

*Sir PHILIP MAGNUS said that, as representing one of the newer Universities, the University of London, he could not give a vote on this question altogether in silence. He thought it was perfectly clear from the debate, if not from the speech of the First Commissioner of Works, that whatever might have been the intention of the framers of this Bill, it was undoubtedly an attack upon University representation Even those who had desired that the Committee should understand that it was not the intention of the Government to disfranchise the Universities had nevertheless used arguments which had shown that they themselves were not in favour of University representation; and he thought it would have been more straightforward on the part of the Government if they had made a direct attack upon the Universities than by a side issue to destroy the representation. It was quite true, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Commissioner of Works had stated, that no difference had been made between the treatment of University representation and that of other constituencies; but this was just what University Members had reason to complain of, because the difference between an ordinary constituency and a University constituency was very great. The whole conditions of the franchise were different in a University from an ordinary borough or county. For a University vote no property qualification whatever was required. The right to vote in his own University was conferred on every graduate who paid the small sum of 5s. a year, or a composition fee of £1. It mattered not whether he was B.A. or M.A. The qualification, therefore, rested upon education only. To a certain extent such a qualification for a vote might be regarded as ideal. If they could succeed in requiring that every elector should have obtained a certain amount of education, and the right to vote depended on that education without any property qualification whatever, he thought it might be an ideal franchise; and certainly the University which he represented was in that respect a most democratic institution. The hon. Member for Burnley had told the Committee that he was not aware of any University representative who had done anything to advance the cause of education or to improve popular instruction in this country. He had the honour of being the fourth representative of the University of London. The first was Mr. Lowe, who might be said to have done something for popular education. Mr. Lowe might have proceeded on lines which some of them now perhaps regarded as mistaken, but there was no doubt that he was one who had an enthusiasm for education, and was desirous of bringing it within reach of all classes of the community. He was succeeded by Sir John Lubbock (now Lord Avebury). Could it be said for one moment that Lord Avebury had done nothing to advance popular education in this country? And then as to Sir Michael Foster, his immediate predecessor, surely few had done more to advance scientific education in this country than he had.

*MR. MADDISON: I was talking about educational legislation in this House. I did not say that there were no Members, but that in the main they had not.

*Sir Philip Magnus.*

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS said all he could say was that Mr. Lowe and Sir John Lubbock had left their names upon the records of this House for the educational legislation which they had introduced or furthered. As regarded Party politics, certainly, speaking for his own constituency, it could not be said that Unionists had invariably been returned as Members for the University. It was true that his immediate predecessor was returned as a Unionist; but he showed the very detachment of opinion to which the hon. Member who had just sat down had referred. If there was to be manhood voting, as some claimed, it would become essential that each vote should have the same value. He for one, could only deeply regret that if the representation of Universities was to be challenged, the change was not made part of a more comprehensive measure of electoral reform. If this Bill became law it could not be said after 1908 that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, would represent the constituencies throughout the country, because the conditions under which the Members would be elected would have changed, and that was generally regarded as an argument for following up any change in the machinery of the franchise by a dissolution. As regarded his own constituency he should like to express what he feared might be the effect of the Bill. It had been said that Members of a University constituency would have the opportunity of selecting whether they would vote for their University, or their home. But it must be recognised that many Members of Universities, and certainly of the London University, scattered in different parts of the country would elect to vote for the constituency in which they lived, rather than for the University. Consequently, the number of electors for the University would gradually diminish; and what was of most importance, the electorate would consist rather of the younger men who had recently graduated, than of the older men who equally belonged to the University. For this reason he thought it would have been very much better if the system of University representation had been considered on its merits, and he sincerely hoped that the Government would still see that it might be an advantage to the country, even if the principles of the Bill were adopted that an exception should be made in favour of University representation.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said he had no desire to take part in this debate or to make an *apologia pro vita mea*; but the reputation of his University had been handled in such a manner by two very distinguished members of that University that he felt called upon to say a few words. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had pictured to himself a new aspect of University representation which, when it came into bodily shape, would hardly commend itself to the House or the country. The right hon. Gentleman had very greatly exaggerated the cost of taking the M.A. degree, and had said that that had prevented him from having the honour to count the right hon. Gentleman among his constituents. He should be glad to supply him with the precise figure which would enable him to vote against him at the earliest opportunity. The assumptions that the M.A. degree cost the amount spoken of by the right hon. Gentleman and that the non-residential electors consisted entirely of clergy were alike unfounded. The constituency was very largely a lay constituency, and, though he was proud to represent a large number of the clergy, he did not consider that it was fair that the representation of two older Universities should be regarded as opportunities offered to the clergy of taking part in the return of two Members of Parliament. The hon. Member for Northampton had drawn a disparaging distinction as to University representation from the fact that Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone at different times lost their seats for Universities. Mr. Gladstone's subsequent electoral career was not altogether successful. He believed Mr. Gladstone sat for three constituencies after his defeat at Oxford, and if they were to inquire into the circumstances under which Macaulay and Mill ceased to be Members for Edinburgh and Westminster, it might be said that, considering that in those days the Universities made a political choice of representatives and were guided by political considerations, the difference between Universities and other constituencies disappeared. The resident members of Universities were a comparatively small number, and those who would select Universities as their voting place because they were in a hopeless minority where they lived might not be a very large number. Having regard to the tone adopted towards University representation by hon. Members opposite and the cheers which greeted the suggestion that University representation should be abolished, he confessed he considered the Chancellor of the Exchequer's conception of University representation to be a very long step in the direction of abolishing it altogether. That was the view which commended itself to a considerable number of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He hardly needed to refer to the attack upon University representation made by the hon. Member for Burnley on the ground that they had shown themselves uniformly opposed to educational advancement. He would remind the Committee that free education was the work of a Unionist Government, and if the hon. Member for Burnley had taken the trouble to ascertain the precise effect of the working of the Act of 1902, or, at any rate, that very large part of it which was not concerned with the religious question, he would see at once that the Unionist Party and the University Members who supported that measure could not justly be said to be opposed to every measure of educational advancement. He would not repeat what had been so well illustrated and explained from the Opposition Benches. All he desired to say was that the result of this Bill would be to reduce University voters to such a small number that it would practically lead to the disappearance of University representation. It was obvious that a man would regard his vote as a political instrument and he would use it where it was likely to have the most effect. If a man lived in a constituency where the Parties were evenly balanced he would prefer to register himself in that constituency in preference to voting for a University candidate, because Universities generally showed a preponderating majority for the Conservative Party. This Bill was clearly designed to destroy University representation. He would not charge the Government with a definite desire to disfranchise their political adversaries, but what then was the ground for this attack on University representation? That it was an anomaly. He agreed that University representation was an anomaly, but was there any harm in an anomaly? The constitution of this country was full of anomalies. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet were anomalies, and if it was desired to frame a spick and span Constitution, in which you could provide a clear-cut reason for every item, they must begin much further back than University representation. He would rather set aside this question of abolishing anomalies and consider what was the real object they ought to have in view. Should it not be to get a House of Commons as completely representative as possible of the various interests in the community. Almost every interest in the country got some opportunity of being represented. The great employers of labour, the labouring classes through their unions, the landowners, the farmers, the agricultural labourers, the teachers in elementary schools, every section of the community were represented. But what organisation was there for securing that higher education was represented, and for looking after the interest of learning and the advancement of science in this House? If University representation was abolished where would be the representatives in this House whose duty it would be to attend to those higher educational interests and watch over their progress? He did not put this question upon the special learning of University Members themselves, although the University of Cambridge had sent to the House of Commons two of the greatest and most brilliant scholars who had ever adorned any University in this country. He knew well that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Irish Secretary could show a list of Oxford distinctions far beyond that of the representatives of their University. But they were sent to this House for other objects. University Members were sent with the special object of watching over educational interests and more particularly higher educational and scientific interests. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated that Sir Richard Jebb, Sir George Stokes, and other persons of great learning were ill employed listening to debates and walking through the Division Lobbies. He thought the advantages that the country had derived from their presence more than counterbalanced the loss. He did not think there was any body of Members in the House more anxious to maintain the traditions of Parliament, or more anxious to do their duty than the University Members. Were they going by a side wind to abolish representation of this character which had been bound up with the history of Parliament for more than 300 years, associated as it was with some of the greatest Parliamentary names, and securing as it did the completely representative character of the House? The full representation of the interests of education and learning was not directly secured by any other process in our Parliamentary system, and he asked the Committee to bear these considerations in mind, and not deprive the House of an element which was of great service to its discussions on certain topics and of great use to the country at large.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he desired to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman opposite. It had been said that the Government did not desire to extinguish University seats. He would put it to hon. Members opposite whether, if they had to decide between voting at the University and voting in their own constituency, they would not at once decide in favour of the latter. The pressure would be brought to bear where the interest was the greatest. Where seats were in danger, pressure would be brought to bear to transfer University voters to those constituencies, with the result that Universities would be left to a few residential voters. There were only nine University seats, and he earnestly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to spare them. Every hon. Member would be ready to acknowledge the great services the University Members had rendered during the debates on the Education Bill, and they all knew the value of the services which Sir Richard Jebb gave during the passage of the Education Bill of 1902. With regard to what had been said about the claims of the Universities at Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and Durham, he was rather in favour of extending University representation to those centres instead of taking the course recommended in this Bill. He appealed to the Government to leave the University seats as they were at present or, at any rate, postpone dealing with them until a Redistribution Bill was before the House.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 92; Noes, 347. (Division List No. 326).

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J(CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C. W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.)
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm.G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesal)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff's.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Forster.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W, Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossfield, A. H.
Crossley, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of

Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sanmuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, W.)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert

Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Llyod-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montague, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Mortor, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscoommn. N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor

Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rchards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E (Manchester)
Scott, A H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley. Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliff)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)

Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John(Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle. George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Viscount HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) moved an Amendment to provide that an elector exercising the right to vote for a University representative should not be debarred from voting in a constituency in which he had a direct interest either by ownership or occupation of business premises, or by residence for a period of at least ninety days in the previous year. He confessed that he had rather faint hope of the Amendment's being accepted by the Committee after the verdict on the last Amendment. He should like to bring to the notice of the Committee that if a Bill of this sort was to have any pretensions to justice there ought to be some exceptions to the principle, quite a new one, which it professed to set up, namely, that it was not localities or districts which were to return Members to Parliament, but the nation as a whole—a principle which had never hitherto existed in this country. It was not the nation as a whole which returned Members to Parliament. The electors, for instance, in his Division had nothing to do with the electing of any hon. Member opposite. If it were the nation as a whole which elected Members, each individual had an equal right to elect Parliament as a whole, and each individual voter should have a list of the 1,200 or 1,300 candidates who offered themselves for election, and should select the 600 odd who were to be the representatives in Parliament. But that was not the case. It was not necessary that each elector in the country, in electing Members of Parliament, should have an absolutely equal right in the election, even if that was the principle which the Bill attempted to set up. What was necessary was that each locality which sent a representative to Parliament should send the representative the majority wished to represent them. He could quite understand the objectors to plural voting saying, "We agree with you in that, but what happens now is that voters come from a distance and swamp the voters in the district itself." That was the argument which was raised by the right hon. Gentleman who introduced the Bill, and one which could be understood, although it was not necessary to sympathise with it. But it was an argument all the more in favour of the exception which he ventured to urge the Committee to accept. Where a man had a direct interest in a locality, by ownership or occupation of business premises, or by residing in the locality, he should be allowed to exercise the vote in choosing a representative. He did not think that anyone would say that a man exercising his vote in a borough would come in and swamp a county constituency. That man belonged as much to the county district as if he had a freehold there. Why should they reduce the interest that man had in the locality?

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Interest is good.

Viscount HELMSLEY instanced the common case of a man whose business premises were in a borough, and who lived outside the borough boundary for the greater part of the year. That man would have to make the invidious choice of having a vote either in the borough or in the county division in which he resided. Why should that invidious choice be put upon him? Again, in the case of a Liberal opposing a Socialist in the borough—a not altogether unreasonable contingency—a man might select the lesser of two evils and vote for the Liberal. But, supposing in the county a Liberal was standing against a Conservative, it might be his interest, considering the ideas of hon. Gentlemen opposite in regard to taxing property, to vote for the Conservative as against the Liberal. Therefore they had to conceive of a man voting in one case for a Liberal and in another for a Conservative. No argument had yet been adduced to meet such a contingency. Or, supposing a voter had to settle a year beforehand whether he would, when the time came, exercise his vote in a borough or in an adjacent county constituency, and a bye-election took place in the borough when he had settled that he would exercise his vote in the county. He would be in the unfortunate position of actually pursuing his daily business in the borough, and yet he was not to be allowed to have any say in its representation. That seemed to him to be a very great injustice. He could quite understand that the Government wanted to get rid of fictitious and faggot votes, but he was sure they did not mean seriously to urge that a man could not have two distinct interests in two different localities, and that he must choose which of those interests he would give preference to before he knew the circumstances in which he had to give his vote. He hoped the Committee would see that there was something of real importance in this Amendment, and that, if carried, it would remedy a very great grievance which this Bill would otherwise impose. After all, would it have a serious effect on the representation of the country? Out of the 6,000,000 of voters only 586,000 had duplicate votes, and of these 480,000 were resident owners. According to the latest Parliamentary Return he believed that the actual number of plural voters was only 637,000, an increase of only 251,000 since 1891. Surely it was not a very large question, nor was it necessary to commit the great injustice which this Bill contemplated and which to some extent would be remedied by his Amendment. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert the words 'except in constituencies in which he has a direct interest either by ownership or occupation of business premises, or by re-idence for a period of at least ninety days in the previous year.'"—(*Viscount Helmsley.*)

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.

*Viscount Helmsley.*

Mr. HARCOURT said that this Amendment attacked the whole principle of the Bill. He was anxious, if the noble Lord would suggest one, to adopt another phrase, but he would point out that all the Amendments proposed from the Opposition Benches were destructive and not constructive. He acknowledged that hon. Gentlemen opposite were opposed to the principle of the Bill, but he would ask them not to complain if he also pointed out that their Amendments were destructive. That was one of the principal reasons why he could not accept this Amendment: it was a destructive Amendment. The noble Lord had said that the Government were trying to set up quite a new principle in large divided boroughs—that a man who might have business premises in such a borough should not have a vote in the county borough where was his residence. But already there was a provision against plural voting. A man might have a qualification in one section of a borough on business premises, but he could not have a qualification in another ward of the same borough on his residence. If, however, the same man lived in the county only a street further on he was entitled to a vote in the county. The noble Lord had argued that this Bill would affect a relatively small number of people. He had not been able to estimate the number of persons who would be affected, but taking the number the noble Lord suggested, that only provided another argument against making the exception suggested by the Amendment. He was sure that the noble Lord did not quite realise the effect of his Amendment. No doubt it would enable a man to vote on the qualification of his business premises and in the neighbouring county where he resided; but that would not enable a farmer in a neighbouring division to vote in that division unless he had a farmhouse on the land which he occupied. That would be an injustice to agriculture which the noble Lord would be the last person to desire. Then the noble Lord suggested that exemption should be made to those who had been ninety days in residence in the previous year. But what state would the register be in if that were done? There would be two separate classes of occupiers—those who had resided ninety days in a particular district and those who had not. One class could exercise the plural vote and the other not. Really, he thought the noble Lord must begin to realise that his Amendment was not a wise one. The Amendment, though well meant, was not one which could be put into a measure which was seriously drafted, and therefore he could not accept it.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said that the Amendment might be destructive, but it also gave the opportunity to Members on the Government side of the House to make the Bill consistent. However, nobody expected that the Government wished to make it consistent. If it was right that they should maintain the ancient practice of local representation, if they were to hold to the long-cherished principle that taxation and representation should go together, he did not see how it was possible that this Bill could be defended without some such Amendment as was proposed by his noble friend. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had made some rather light-hearted comments on his noble friend's speech when he talked of a farmer who might farm in one constituency and reside in another. But if a farmer had farms in more than one constituency he could not farm properly without having some business premises on each. It might easily happen that if this Bill were passed in its present form, without some such Amendment as this, an individual might be the largest contributor to Imperial taxation in two or more divisions or constituencies, and be the only individual who was not electorally represented. As far as he could see, the proper course for the Government to take was one of three things. They should either repudiate once and for all our long-cherished constitutional idea, that taxation and representation should go together, or allow all taxpaying property to carry a vote; or else, in the third alternative, remit Imperial taxation upon property that did not carry a vote. He could hardly venture to think that they would do the latter, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find some difficulty in replacing the money. He could only imagine that the Government intended to trample upon the idea that there was to be no taxation without representation, and he ventured to protest against any such course as vigorously as he could. He should have thought that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would have inherited greater respect for one of the most cherished traditions of the English Constitution. Under this Bill the man who owned property in more than one constituency had no more voice in selecting the representatives of his property than the man who had only one interest. In many cases, moreover, he would be worse off than the man with only one interest. Everyone must admit that in the case of a very large percentage of plural voters—at least 80 or 90 per cent.—there would be an omission to make a selection by the right date and in the right form of where they selected to vote under the Order in Council, and there was no machinery provided by the Bill by which plural voters could be reminded of the fact that they were plural voters. A proper form was not to be sent to them which would remind them to make their selection. There was also no provision made against a circumstance which was not at all infrequent that a man who was put on the register at the Registration Court already had a voting qualification elsewhere.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was not dealing with the Amendment.

*MR. COURTHOPE said he was trying to explain the reason why a person having a direct interest in more than one estate should carry more than one vote. A man who resided in one constituency would be placed on the register in another constituency with regard to some property in September or October of a certain year, then if no Amendment such as this was carried he would not only fail to gain a second vote, but he would lose for a whole year the vote given him by his residence because he would have no opportunity of making a selection before the 1st of September. Therefore he would lose both votes. As no steps were taken by those in charge of the Bill to prevent this contingency he intended to support the Amendment.

SIR F. BANBURY said the First Commissioner of Works had raised two objections to his noble friend's Amendment. The first objection was that it was badly drafted, and he would deal with that in a moment. The second objection was that the number of people who would be affected by this change was much larger than that which his hon. friend gave. With regard to that argument he would point out that they were fighting this Bill, not because it was going to affect a large or small number of people, but because they rightly or wrongly believed that the principle of the Bill was wrong, and that it would be detrimental to the general interests of the country. Therefore the argument that it affected only a small or a large number of people seemed to him—he did not want to put it offensively—to have nothing whatever to do with the question before the Committee. With regard to the question of bad drafting, he would point out to the right hon. Gentleman that an assertion of that kind was not a valid argument against an Amendment. It was perfectly easy for one who had such a number of eminent gentlemen under the Gallery to bring forward an Amendment dealing with this matter which should be so drafted as to be in proper order. He would suggest, therefore, to the right hon. Gentleman, that if he had consulted his advisers under the Gallery, he would have been able to select an Amendment on this point which would have been in order. He had listened with great attention to the right hon. Gentleman's argument, and although it was probably his stupidity, he could not see where the bad drafting came in. The right hon. Gentleman said that this Amendment if carried would affect agricultural interests, and that he did not believe that the noble Lord behind him was desirous of doing that. He could not, however, see that the description which the right hon. Gentleman gave of the Amendment was a correct one. Let them take the case of a farmer who had a farm but had no house upon it. It was absolutely necessary that he should have business premises there, such as stables, barns, and outbuildings. He occupied the business premises, and occupation did not mean that he should reside on the farm. He himself had a vote in the City of London although he did not reside on the qualifying premises. He occupied them for business purposes, and no one could properly say that a farmer did not occupy his farm, his stables, and his barns, etc. Therefore as far as he could see there was no bad drafting in the Amendment. It was said that the object of the Amendment was quite destructive of the whole principle of the Bill, or at all events of the greater part of the Bill. That again was not an argument against it unless it could be proved that it was a bad proposal. One thing which the Amendment did would, he was certain, meet with the approval of all hon. Members on the opposite side of the House and that was that it abolished out-voters and rendered it impossible for anyone who was in any way an out-voter to come in and vote. It only provided for the people who resided and had an interest in the constituency, and would enact that they should have a vote in that constituency. He did not want to go into the elaborate argument of his noble friend which tended to show that a voter might, on one occasion, vote for the Liberal and on another occasion for the Conservative. He did not dispute that that might take place, but it had nothing to do with the Amendment, the object of which was really to secure justice for those persons who, unless it was adopted, would be disfranchised. One must always remember that this was a disfranchising Bill, and he had not heard a single argument why a person who resided in a constituency or who occupied business premises there should be disfranchised. The proposal was perfectly ridiculous. Why should not a man who had business premises at Croydon and resided at Brighton have a vote at Croydon, or *vice versa*? He had the same rights in the respective constituencies as any other man who resided or carried on business in them. He did not want to go into the machinery of the Bill, about which a great deal might be said, but he wished to ask hon. Gentlemen opposite whether they could produce any reason why an Englishman who paid rates and taxes in a constituency should, because he did not reside in it, although his business premises were in it, not have a vote? Why should a man be disfranchised because he had business premises in one part and resided in another part of the country, or *vice versa*? It would seem that frugality and industry were to be penalised, because in nine cases out of ten the man who had a business establishment in one place and resided in another did so not because he was a squire, but because he was a successful business man who had attained to his position by industry, energy, and diligence. Why he should suffer for having made that position for himself seemed to him incomprehensible and unanswerable. Their desire on both sides was to encourage people to be successful in this world and not to have any poor men. Therefore he could not see why the successful man should be robbed of one of his greatest privileges. He was afraid that the Government had made up their minds not to accept any Amendment, or at any rate one which they should consider substantial, but he invited hon. Members opposite to endeavour to meet the points he had raised.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said he only desired to make one suggestion to the right hon. Gentleman. The Amendment moved by the noble Lord ought, he suggested, to be regarded from the point as to whether, if it was accepted, the electorate set up would be more or less representative of the true interests of the constituency. He put it to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill that that was the point of view from which a statesman ought to look at this question. The Government by this Bill were proposing to make a vast change in the manning of the various constituencies, and if that change made the electorate less representative of the real interests of the constituency it was a bad one. If it made it more representative of the real interests of the constituency it was a good one. He, however, took leave to say that under this proposal they were making the electorate considerably less representative of the real interests of the constituency; less in the full voting power of all those who took a fair part in the political and social life of the constituency. The proposals of the Bill limited the number and diminished the real representation of the constituency. It was quite conceivable that under the Bill, if the Amendment of the noble Lord was rejected, a number of representatives might be taken out of the constituency who were the direct representatives of its chiefest industries. If that was done the electorate would not represent the real interest of the constituency. And it must be patent to everybody that such a result could not be otherwise than evil, bad, and unfair to the constituency. That was the position in which the Committee would find itself if it refused such an Amendment as that it was now discussing. The Amendment only sought to establish the point that where a man had a really vital personal interest in a constituency he should be allowed to evidence that interest by a vote on matters on which that constituency most depended.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) ventured to urge upon the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill the desirability of accepting an Amendment of this kind. The right hon. Gentleman had admitted that an individual had a right to vote in two separate places, but he and the Government now took it upon themselves to say he should only vote in one of those two places. The Amendment of the noble Lord was one the Government could easily accept. They were interests duly qualified to carry with them a vote, and he could only say, although he disagreed entirely with the object of the right hon. Gentleman, which was to cut down representation and so execute a retrograde movement, the Amendment was one which could not possibly do any harm.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought the First Commissioner had greatly exaggerated the confusion that would be introduced into the register by the acceptance of this Amendment. Declarations as to domicile, and proofs of domicile of a character similar to those embodied in the Amendment were required in America for matters of taxation. If they could do this for matters of taxation, surely they could do it equally well for qualifications to vote! What was going to happen, if the Bill were carried in its present form, was that a large number of persons with more than one qualification of real and genuine interest would be deprived of the right to vote in one of the places with which they were intimately associated, and in the active public life and prosperity of which they were deeply concerned. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that, in making their choice, they would probably decide to give their votes where they would be of most effect. The result of that would be that the register would be put more than ever into the hands of Party agents. It would be their business to organise, to combine, and to work to secure that every vote should be given in the constituency where it would be most likely to affect the result, and the cleverest schemer, the shrewdest tactician would be the person who would secure the greatest success for his Party. He did not think that was a satisfactory position any more than he thought it right that voters who had genuine and practically equal interests in two constituencies should be deprived of the right they now enjoyed of recording their votes in both places. The real test in this matter was whether by this proposal they were making the constituency more representative of the daily life of the district or less. If they liked to strike off the out-voters who had no association with the life of the constituency, and perhaps only a very faint interest in the constituency, he did not know that he should be moved to protest. But he did protest against their taking out of a constituency large bodies of voters without whom the constituency would not be what it was, and to whom the constituency owed, perhaps, that very prosperity which had caused it to have a sufficient number of inhabitants to justify its being given a Member. He protested against their doing anything to make the representation of the interests of a constituency less complete than it was at present, and he should support the Amendment of his noble friend unless some undertaking was given to bring up words to meet what seemed to him a great and real grievance.

Mr. ASQUITH said the Government did not complain that this Amendment should be moved and discussed, because, speaking for himself, he thought this or some such proposal was the alternative to the plan which the Government had proposed. He was glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken admit that the present system could not be maintained, the system under which voters could go into a constituency with which they were not in constant contact and dilute the votes of those who were always there. He was glad to take note of that admission. Once they made that admission there were two ways only in which the matter could be dealt with. One was by some such plan as that suggested in the Amendment. The Amendment was badly drawn, but it was intended to embody the idea that they should supply some kind of test or some series of tests by which they could determine whether a person on the register was or was not really interested in the constituency. The other plan, the plan submitted by the Government, was to give the individual voter the choice of saying where he would record his vote. The obvious objection to the plan proposed in the Amendment was that the test might be perfectly illusory. A man might be the owner of business premises in a constituency and receive rent from the person in occupation, but that did not give him any direct or living interest in the constituency. [Opposition cries of "Why not?"] He might be an absentee, and he might have no interest whatever in the constituency beyond putting the money in his pocket. The more they devoted their ingenuity to the problem of enumerating criteria or tests by which they might determine whether or not a man's interest in a constituency was sufficiently great to entitle him to a vote the more they would find they were undertaking an impossible task. The Government plan had the merit of complete equality between all classes [Opposition cries of "No"], and it had the merit of simplicity; it was simple, at any rate, as compared with the alternative, which consisted in enumerating a number of criteria about which nobody would be agreed, and which would not produce the desired results. Moreover, the Government's plan was the only plan consistent with democratic principles. Did the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bordesley Division deny that?

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): Standing alone, I do.

Mr. ASQUITH said he would read the right hon. Gentleman a passage. The speaker said—

> "I am in favour of the principle of one man one vote, and I object altogether to the plural representation of property. I will take my own case. I am a terrible example . . . . I have three votes for as many borough constituencies, and I have three votes for as many county constituencies, that is to say I have six votes. I use them on the right side."

He was afraid that was not still the case. Did the right hon. Gentleman agree with what followed?—

> "I consider this is an anomaly altogether inconsistent with the principle for which we stand. That principle is that every householder,

at all events, has an equal stake in the good government of the country; and his life, his happiness, his property depend on legislation which he is equally entitled with every one else to assist in framing."

If the English language had any meaning at all, that meant that those six votes ought to be replaced by one, in order that he might stand on an equal footing with every other householder.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Every other male householder.

Mr. ASQUITH said that was a relevant interruption. If the right hon. Gentleman agreed with that proposition he was bound to support the Government and vote against the Amendment.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The qualifications were of a shadowy kind.

Mr. ASQUITH said there was nothing in the speech about shadowy qualifications. The public did not suspect when the right hon. Gentleman said he had six votes that they were shadowy or bogus qualifications. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman for the Bordesley Division recognised the passage.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: It is incomplete.

Mr. ASQUITH said he would finish the passage.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS said he would not trouble the right hon. Gentleman. When he said the quotation was incomplete he meant that "one man one vote" was generally accompanied by "one vote one value." The right hon. Gentleman had left that out.

Mr. ASQUITH said it did not accompany it on this occasion. He would finish the passage—

"If we are to make any distinction I am not quite certain whether it is not the poor man who ought to have more votes than the rich man; for, after all, his interests are more direct than the rich man's, and if you have bad legislation you lessen the income of the one and destroy altogether his means of subsistence."

He was content to support the Government's proposals by quoting that admirable statement.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman did well to go to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham whenever he desired a clear statement of a particular view relevant to the debate. But surely this extract was not relevant to the contention they were advancing from the Opposition Benches. He would take the case of the Division of Manchester represented by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. If they passed this Bill they would put before the Manchester merchant in the North-West Division, who lived outside Manchester, the choice of abandoning his right to have a voice in the selection of the representative of the place where he lived, or his right to have a voice in the selection of the representative of the place where he had his business, earned his living, and helped to carry on the great commercial business of the country. He confessed that there was a great deal to be said for sweeping away what his right hon. friend had called shadowy qualifications, but there was a substantial case for not depriving the merchants of Manchester of their right to have some voice in the selection of their representatives. If they could so draft a Bill that a man could only have a vote where he *bona fide* prosecuted his business and where he *bona fide* lived, they would meet the underlying principle, as he understood it, of the Amendment of his noble friend. Anybody who felt how important it was that the great directors of the commercial energies of this country should have a voice in the constituencies where they carried on their business and where they earned their money, would surely make some effort to modify the Bill in that direction. Let it be agreed, if they liked, that many qualifications might be abolished without serious disadvantage to anybody, or to the public interest, or the interest of this House; but could anybody say that the modern accidental divorce of the residence from a man's place of business ought to be accompanied by his disfranchisement either in one place or in the other? That was the case in a nutshell; and he did not think the right hon. Gentleman had answered it. The quotation made from that work which appeared to be his *vade mecum*—he did not know its name—[Mr. Asquith, (passing over the book from which he quoted) "The collected works."] He was glad the right hon. Gentleman went to a source which he acknowledged to be the highest authority upon representation in British public life; but that quotation, which he commended as a lucid exposition, did not touch, or pretend to touch, the principal point they were raising; and he asked the Government—if they could not accede to his noble friend's Amendment in its present shape, if they felt that it carried with it any practical difficulty, if they even felt that it was too wide, and he was not sure that it might not, with advantage, be modified—whether they would consider the possibility of introducing an exception into the Bill which would permit the business man to vote in the place where he worked and in the place where he lived. That would not help monopolies, or the brewer, or the Church, or even the Masters of Arts. It would help only the average business man in our great industrial constituencies. He pressed this upon the consideration of the Government, and, meanwhile, would certainly vote with his noble friend.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 348. (Division List No. 327.)

## AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn AJ (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn JA (Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings. Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Robert, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn JG (Oxf'd Univ.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson. A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A, Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carylon
Benn, Sir J Williams (Devonp'rt
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arhur W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg. John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir Jn. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston

Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes. J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir WmJ. (SPancras, W
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, WH (St.Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col Alan(Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt Hn Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon Richard B
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffo'k)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davis, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M. (Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W. Bateman (SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF .(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, JM (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh. Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps,Col.Ivor(S'uthampton
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen, C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman

Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt.Hon.T.(Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamrogan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence (Ambrose)
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John(Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) moved to insert after "constituency" the words "before the first day of September in any year." He said the point raised was a serious one. It would be found that the Bill was in many respects in its effect a complete disfranchising Bill, and to prevent that disfranchisement it would be absolutely necessary to alter the Bill. According to the Bill a voter had to serve notice of the selection of the constituency in which he intended to vote on or before 1st September in any year. What he wanted to ask was whether the voter must have his double right to vote before that date.

MR. HARCOURT: No.

SIR E. CARSON said in that case the voter could not serve his notice, because the Bill only applied to a case where he had a double qualification. Let him take a concrete case. Supposing he held one qualification in the middle of August, there was no need for him to serve his notice. But supposing after 1st September—on the day of the revising sessions—he was put on the list for another qualification. He had then two qualifications, and how was he to serve notice before 1st September? It was absolutely impossible. What happened next? Assuming a general election took place in the next year, he could not vote at all. Although he had his original qualification to vote, yet because he had been put on the list again he was not allowed to vote at all. Because he had two qualifications he was disfranchised. Why was he disfranchised? The reason was this. If the election took place within the next twelve months before the following 1st September he would be asked by the clerk at the polling booth when he went to vote, "Are you registered as a Parliamentary elector in any other constituency than this?" He could not answer in the negative, because that would be fraud, and if he answered in the affirmative the Bill said he should not be allowed to vote. Let him give another case. Supposing a man was not on the register at all prior to 1st September and at the revising sessions after that date he was put on for two different places. If he was put on for one place he had a vote, but because he was put on for two he had no vote at all. Then, again, in another case, assuming that a man who had a vote in one constituency took his Master of Arts degree after the 1st September he could not serve his notice before that day, and therefore he was disfranchised. This matter was of great importance. The Government might say it was only for a year, but that year might be a very vital year in regard to the exercise of the political franchise, and the ridiculous part of it was that because a man had two qualifications he was disfranchised altogether. He had gone into this question minutely, and he could see no answer to his contention. If his contention was, as he believed it, sound, it would be necessary to remodel this part of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 6, after the word 'constituency,' to insert 'before the first day of September in any year.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said he should have to call attention presently to the machinery for the working of this Bill, but on the particular point raised some doubt seemed to have arisen in the mind even of the learned Gentleman who had just spoken as to what the register was. The Committee ought to be reminded, of what many Members knew, that there was no register until the register of voters came into force. It was a purely private document until that date. The revising barrister had before him the lists out of which the register was made up. These lists were entirely of a temporary nature. The only exception was the ownership list, which was taken as the permanent basis of that part of the register. It came as a printed document before the revising barrister, whose court was held in the second half of September, or the first half of October. The other lists were supposed to be and often were written documents in the form in which they came to the county clerk to form the register. The county clerk had no power to touch them or to interfere with them in any way. He only corrected printers' errors when he had the register printed from them. The power now to be given to the county clerks would be a new power. At the present moment the revising barrister was wholly responsible for the register, and the register did not exist until he had finished the lists and initialled every change on the lists. Before the Committee could discuss the Amendment or know what it meant, they must be sure whether they used the word "register" in the present sense or attached to it a new meaning. He thought the learned Gentleman did not avoid attaching the last sense to the word register. The register came into force for all Parliamentary purposes in England and Ireland on 1st January. It was the register between the 31st of December and the 1st of January next but one following. He did not want to enter into a discussion of the machinery of the Bill, which he thought would be difficult to work; but he pointed out that they were talking of two different things. The register of which the right hon. Gentleman spoke was not the register of the following year; it was only the register of the year in which it was made up; a new use of the term.

MR. HARCOURT said that when he saw the Amendment on the Paper he thought that the right hon. Gentleman was under some misunderstanding as to the proceedings to be taken by a voter if the Bill were passed. The right hon. Gentleman evidently thought that he would not be in a position to send a notice selecting the constituency in which he would vote unless he had finally acquired a duplicate vote. That was not so. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had applied his attention too much to the first sub-section of Clause 1, and had not looked at sub-section (2), which said—

> "A person desiring to select a voting constituency for the purposes of this Act, must send a notice of his selection signed by him to the clerk of the county council or town clerk who is responsible for the printing of the Parliamentary register of the selected constituency, before the first day of September preceding the commencement of the year in which this selection is to be given to take effect."

A voter who on 1st September was a single voter, and wished to protect himself either against some unauthorised action of other people, or wished to make his position safe against some action of his own, could send in a notice selecting the constituency he intended to vote in.

SIR E. CARSON said that the words which the right hon. Gentleman had referred to must have some relation to the first sub-section, which said that a person registered in more than one constituency should not vote except in the constituency which he had selected.

MR. HARCOURT: I can assure the right hon. and learned Gentleman that that is not so.

SIR E. CARSON: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that in law it is so.

MR. HARCOURT: Then this Bill, when it is passed, will to that extent change the law. The first sub-section of Clause 1 provided that a person registered in two or more constituencies might not vote in more than one. The second sub-section said that a person desiring to select a constituency in which to exercise his vote must send in a notice of his selection. It was obvious that a man might be on two registers, or have two qualifications without knowing it; but under this Bill a man who knew that he had other qualifications which might become effective, could protect himself by sending in this notice making a selection. He had not got to notify the other constituencies; all he had got to do was to select one and say, "This is the constituency in which I desire to cast my vote." He had not got to state in the notice where his other qualifications were, or that he had other qualifications. He had only got to state that he desired to be marked for voting in a particular constituency. He could assure the right hon. and learned Gentleman that the case he had put was entirely met by the words of the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) thought that the explanation they had listened to from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was one of the most extraordinary that any Committee of this House had ever heard. Although it was obvious to legal minds on both sides of the House that the words of the first sub-section only applied to the individual who had more than one qualification before 1st September, yet the right hon. Gentleman said that the words of sub-section (2) were of general application. The extraordinary effect of that contention would be that every person in the country who had the franchise would have to give such a notice, because he might conceivably during the current year become the occupier of property in another borough, and if he did not give notice he might lose his vote altogether. He strongly supported the Amendment on wider grounds than those given by the right hon. and learned Gentleman who proposed it. They were told on the Second Reading of the Bill that an evil had to be remedied, which evil was that a man having two qualifications exercised two votes. But, his contention was that the effect of the Bill in its present form would not remedy that evil. He instanced the case of Liverpool, which was surrounded by such constituencies as Bootle, Birkenhead, Ormskirk, Widnes, Southport and Wirrall. If this Bill were passed in its present shape without this particular Amendment it would vitally affect Liverpool, where there were hundreds of voters who every year removed from one of those boroughs into another, although retaining their business premises in Liverpool. He believed that if all those voters were to elect under the powers of sub-section (2) to vote on their residences, the effect would be that 25 per cent. might be disfranchised, and the whole voting power would be thrown into the hands of the small ratepayers. Then, why should a man who failed to make his selection or neglected to give notice be disfranchised altogether? If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was so enamoured of the law as it applied to boroughs, why did he not adopt it in regard to this Bill? According to the law applying to municipalities a man was not allowed to be on the burgess roll of that borough for more than one ward. That was the law, but it had been found in practice that it was absolutely unworkable, and in the case of *Regina* v. *Harold* it was held by the High Court that a man did not make his selection by sending in a form, but that when he exercised his franchise for the first time that was in fact the making of a selection of the ward in which he would vote. He should be personally in favour of this Bill because he was in favour of the principle of "One man one vote" if it carried out that principle in the way he had indicated. If a man was on the register for four different places let him remain on the register for those places and let his choice the first time he voted fix him for that year. By that means they would get rid of these notices, and the man would select his own constituency, but if a man had a qualification in more than one constituency, let him exercise his choice when the time came and be thereby disqualified for exercising his vote in any other Parliamentary constituency. If the Bill were worded in that simple way it would meet the objection of those who brought forward the Amendment, and would not involve them in the difficulties which now seemed before them. He most cordially supported the Amendment.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) said it had not been mentioned that any voter subjected to objection would lose his right to vote in an ensuing year or for another constituency. If hon. Members would look at sub-section (2) they would see that the name of the person selecting was marked for the current year and every subsequent year. Suppose he had, or thought he had a qualification in Cheshire and he selected that county. He remained on the register there. Subsequently, if his opponent successfully objected to him in Cheshire, although he had a right to vote in Liverpool and other places, he would lose his right to vote in them because it was too late to give notice of his selection of a fresh place. The result was that the clever Party agent had only to wait his time and serve objections on 1st September and a number of electors, because they had more than one qualification, would be disfranchised.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought that more than one point of great intricacy was raised by the Amendment, but he would rather like to get at the bottom of one of the difficulties which had not been dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. It appeared to him from the language of the Bill that the person who was to select the constituency in which he would vote was the person on the register in reference to two constituencies, and that he must make his selection before the 1st September. Therefore, it appeared to him that according to the language of sub-section (1), the person contemplated could not make the selection in the manner indicated within the prescribed time. The hon. Gentleman who was in charge of the Bill tried to make out that the person selecting was not the person described in sub-section (1), but a person already registered as a household elector in more than one constituency. If that was so, he thought the clause was very bady drafted, because grammar and common sense pointed to the fact that the person selecting was the person described in sub-section (1).

MR. ASQUITH: No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not wish to be controversial, but really, reading the words of the section, that appeared to him to be so unless the whole of the difficulty was caused by drafting.

MR. ASQUITH explained that sub-section (1) described what happened to a person after the register had come into operation, the person himself being registered in more than one constituency, and having voted otherwise than in the constituency he had selected. It imposed a penalty upon him, but in the case of a person who had not made his selection, if the right hon. Gentleman would refer to sub-section (3) he would find that he must be registered before he made his selection; the register was made up in the month of September, but it came into operation on the 1st January, and sub-section (1) dealt with the register which came into operation on the 1st January and remained in operation until the 31st December. Under the other sub-section a person who desired to select a constituency was sent a notice before the 1st September, that was before the register was made up at all. Notice was given by a person who desired to select a particular constituency. He need not be on the register at all, and his qualification might only have come into existence during the past twelve months. There were two lists which were quite distinct. The overseers' lists were made between August and September, and the register was subsequently compiled out of them and did not come into operation until 1st January, and the person who made the selection need not be on the register at all. He was going on the register and he made his selection as to the constituency in which he would vote. The point raised by the hon. Member for the Everton Division of Liverpool, however, required serious consideration. It was possible that, read closely under this sub-section, a man who had made his selection and was objected to effectually might never be registered at all in the constituency he had selected, and if he had two other votes in other constituencies which he had not selected he could not exercise votes in either. He thought that was a substantial point, and he suspected that that might be the effect of the clause as it stood. That effect was not, however, intended, and he would take care that words were introduced which would prevent the possibility of it. The present Amendment would have no effect whatever, and he suggested its withdrawal.

Sir E. CARSON could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman, although he was one of those lawyers in the House who disliked arguments across the floor, about the construction of clauses. He could not, however, agree in this case with the construction which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had put upon the section, but even if the right hon. Gentleman's construction was right, it did seem to him to leave those who had a double qualification left in a very parlous position. The right hon. Gentleman in effect said that if they had a double qualification and did not exercise an option within a certain time they would be disfranchised. Was that satisfactory ? He possessed, he thought, ordinary intelligence and ordinary political enthusiasm, and he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he should not know in what particular September the revising barrister put his name upon the register. The burden of serving a notice was not put upon the person with one qualification, and should not be imposed upon one who had many. It would be far better to indicate that a man should be put on the register only in regard to one qualification; otherwise, as many people took no concern in these registers they would not be put on at all. At the present time he was bound emphatically to state his opinion for what it was worth on the construction of the section. His opinion was that it was the person registered in more than one constituency and he alone who could serve the notice. He did not know that anything else was applicable. He could not see how the right hon. Gentleman could read the words "except in that one of those constituencies" in any other way than being registered in one of those constituencies. As he read the section he would be very much surprised if it was not intended by the draftsman that the second part should be mere machinery for carrying out the first part. In his opinion, as a lawyer, that was the construction the Court would put upon it. He did not believe that the Court would lay down that a person who had lost a vote in one constituency through buying property in another was disqualified if he forgot that he had been put on the register in respect to the property which he had bought. He frankly admitted that he put the Amendment down really to raise this question, and that the Amendment would not be a satisfactory way of carrying out his view. But it was necessary to raise the question at an early stage of the discussion, and if the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer would assure the Committee that he would have the matter which had been raised fully inquired into in all its bearings, and not in this one particular, he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman proposed to bring up his suggested Amendments on this stage or on Report.

Mr. ASQUITH said he thought they would be brought up on Report as he would then have a longer period in which to consider the matter.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR agreed that there might be difficulties in bringing them up on this stage and therefore took it as settled they would be brought up on Report. He suggested, however, that the Government should give the House an early intimation of what they intended to do, so that the House might have the matter before them.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked to be permitted to give, before the Amendment was withdrawn, an illustration which had forced itself upon him in the last fortnight. He was on the register in Liverpool. Eighteen months or two years ago he took some rooms in Westminster. It never occurred to him that he had in consequence been placed on the register in Westminster until he recently received two cards, one from each candidate for the municipal election in Westminster, asking him for his vote. If this Bill had been passed last year he would have been disfranchised in Liverpool as well as Westminster because he had omitted to take the precaution of sending in a selecting notice.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent), on a point of order, asked whether that part of the discussion had arrived when the point of giving notice arose at all.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN was understood to say it had not. He also pointed out that the hon. Baronet had asked leave to withdraw the Amendment. Did the hon. Member wish to prevent that?

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) protested against the question being put to his hon. friend. He submitted that although the Amendment would by the leave of the Committee be withdrawn hon. Members should be allowed to mention points in which they were interested which arose upon it.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that if the Amendment was to be withdrawn and they accepted the assurance that the points which they were trying to make would be taken into consideration and provided for, it was only fair to allow them an opportunity of stating what those points were.

MR. ASQUITH said he had no objection to any difficulty being pointed out; quite the contrary. He wished to make it perfectly clear that he adhered absolutely to the construction, he had placed upon the sub-section. He thought it was the true construction, and he undertook to meet the point of the hon. Member below the gangway, and words should be brought up to provide for that point.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) suggested to the right hon. Gentleman that until the Order in Council which it was proposed to lay on the Table of the House in connection with this Bill was brought in they would be quite unable to get on. Difficulties in respect to registration law would be raised from time to time, and the First Commissioner of Works who was in charge of the Bill could only say "that will be dealt with by an Order in Council." He had a list of twelve or thirteen questions which he would like to put to the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer—practically all questions dealing with the machinery, as to the way in which these elections should take place, and how they were to get over the difficulty of registration taking place at different times, and generally on the whole question. He thought this discussion should be adjourned until the Order in Council was before the Committee. The Bill was entirely a skeleton, and its real machinery was bound to be in this Order in Council.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to bring up his Amendments as soon as possible, as the vast bulk of the Bill consisted of machinery, and the question of selection was almost the only one with which the Committee had to deal. It therefore handicapped the Committee not to have the Amendments of the Government before it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved that the Committee report progress and ask leave to sit again.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept the Motion.

MR. LANE-FOX said the Amendment he desired to move would fill up a gap in the Bill. It was absolutely clear from the discussion that there might be considerable difficulty in the man who had more than one vote exercising his vote at all, and therefore it ought to be made quite plain that as regarded the by-elections his vote would not suffer. At a by-election every man qualified to vote was in exactly the same position, so that there could be no question of the inequality between the poor man and the rich man. He claimed that this was not a destructive Amendment but was really to repair an omission in the Bill. There would not be the slightest difficulty in carrying it out, because the voter's name would remain upon the list, and he would exercise his vote in the ordinary way. That was the only manner, it seemed to him, in which they could secure that a by-election would be thoroughly representative. No serious arguments, he thought, could be brought against the Amendment, which was not contrary to the spirit of the Bill. They would give the right hon. Gentleman full credit that although he did not like the plural voter very much he did not wish to penalise him unfairly.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'such,' to insert the words 'at a general election.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said the hon. Gentleman was quite correct in saying that he had no dislike to the plural voter as an individual; he only disliked his plurality, and when he had relieved him of that he would acquire an additional affection for him. The effect of the Amendment would be to create an absolutely different electorate in a constituency at a by-election and at a general election. ["So there is now."] If he were convinced of there being that under the Bill, he should himself introduce Amendments which would obviate such a very undesirable result. It was quite clear that they could not have in the same constituency a different electorate for a general election from that for a by-election. The hon. Member would see that it was not an Amendment which could be incorporated in the Bill.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman could not accept the Amendment. It did not fly in the face of the Bill, which was to prevent a man voting twice at a single election. The object of the Amendment appeared to be to restrict the limitation to the case of a general election, and he could not see that it broke the principle of the Bill. The system proposed in the Amendment already prevailed in county council elections. There were many voters who he thought would be disfranchised by the Bill as it stood. They might make their selection a year before for a certain constituency, being absolutely unaware that any by-election was likely to take place, and there might be some questions of great local interest in the constituency in which the by-election occurred, and in which they had either a residential or office qualification. They would naturally desire to express an opinion, to which they were entitled, as to the choice of a representative. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had rather curtly refused the Amendment which had been moved with great force by his hon. friend.

*MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) said the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was entitled to the sympathy of the Committee, because the Amendment was not one which he could dispose of by one of those epigrams in which he excelled. The right hon. Gentleman had made the sweeping and obviously exaggerated assertion that the Amendment would create an absolutely different electorate at a by-election from that at a general election. The proportion of voters in any constituency who would be affected by the Bill would be very inconsiderable. There was a further point which might be reasonably made in favour of the Amendment. It was well known that at a by-election the issues were much more frequently local than imperial. Considering the comparative rarity of by-elections he thought the Amendment was reasonable and one which might very well be accepted by the Government. So far there had not been anything granted in the way of concessions, but only vague assurances that there was no determination that no concessions should be made. If any indication of a spirit of concession was to be given, surely this was an occasion when they might look for it.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would not accept the Amendment, which would not only strike at the very principle of the measure but create two distinct electorates, one for a general election and the other for a by-election. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had said that by-elections were usually fought on distinctly local issues. He believed both the hon. Gentleman and himself came into the House as the result of by-elections in the previous Parliament. He could assure the hon. Gentleman he fought his election on the distinctly imperial issue of free trade, but he believed he would be right in saying that the hon. Gentleman's election was fought on a particularly local issue. As the Bill stood the choice of constituency for voting in must be made in September for the succeeding year. Supposing a general election took place in June, the Ministers taking office would have to seek re-election. Upon what register would supporters of the Amendment have the by-elections fought? No one who had spoken in support of the Amendment had told the Committee how the register was going to be made to fit both elections, and until that had been explained he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would refuse to accept the Amendment.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he would be very happy to inform the hon. Gentleman how it would be done. There would be no change in the register at all. It would remain the same as at the general election, but when the man who had two votes went to record his vote at the by-election he would not be asked, "Have you recorded your vote in another constituency?"

MR. RAWLINSON said the matter was perfectly easy in municipal elections and why should it be difficult in Parliamentary elections? As he understood, the basis of this Bill was the objection to one man voting in two or more constituencies at the same election. There might not have been a general election for some considerable period, and on what possible ground could they disqualify a man from voting in a by-election because, if a general election had taken place, he would have had to vote in another constituency? Was he not right in saying that the Bill would make no alteration in the register, except for the starring of the plural voter? The Amendment was one which might fairly be made on behalf of the plural voter, whose rights were to be taken away at a general election.

MR. HARCOURT said he could not accept the Amendment, the effect of which would be to give the plural voter a vote in each constituency for which he was qualified in which a by-election took place, though he had made his choice for the general election. That would be to create a different electorate for the by-elections—an electorate that could not be reproduced at the general election. His objection to that was that they would be creating the possibility of two very different—he did not say totally different—classes of electors for the same constituency. That was a fatal objection to the Amendment.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) did not think the right hon. Gentleman had met the point at the root of the Amendment. The Government, he understood, had no desire to do away with the plural qualifications of the plural voter. They could have done so, of course but they left those qualifications, and stipulated that the voter should select one of the constituencies in which he had a qualification. Surely the principle of the Bill was that the plural voter was not to be in any worse position than an ordinary voter? The ordinary voter in a constituency in which a by-election occurred would have his vote, and should not the plural voter have the right of voting at the by-election if he had the necessary qualification? The right hon. Gentleman said it would create a different electorate, but the Bill itself contemplated different electorates for the same constituency, because every year the plural voter could change the constituency in which he desired to vote. Was it fair when the Government came forward with a Bill which distinctly professed to carry no disfranchisement with it, to refuse to the plural voter his right of voting in common with all other electors at a by-election? The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said there were alternative ways of dealing with the question, but this was the simple way. It might be simple, but it was not a fair way.

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) thought the way in which the right hon. Gentleman had met this Amendment showed that his object was to disfranchise voters of a particular class, and they might assume that these disfranchised voters were men with whom he was not in political sympathy. Hon. Members had heard the defence which the right hon. Gentleman had given. The right hon. Gentleman did not say that the Bill was to disfranchise anybody; everybody was to be on the register in the same way. The right hon. Gentleman talked about machinery, but obviously that was putting the cart before the horse. What was the reason which the right hon. Gentleman gave against the Amendment? He admitted that it was fair—at any rate, he did not say it was unfair. The right hon.

Gentleman said that a voter ought not to be deprived of the influence he should have in the locality.

Mr. HARCOURT: I did not say so.

Mr. BONAR LAW: If the right hon. Gentleman could have said that he thought it was unfair did not the Committee think that he would have used that argument? Instead of doing so, he talked about machinery. The right hon. Gentleman only gave one reason for opposing the Amendment. A Minister on accepting office had to vacate his seat and seek re-election. If the general election was in August, a man seeking re-election a few months later would have to face an entirely different constituency. That would be very unfair.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) supported the Amendment because he considered the Bill a piece of flagrant class legislation. The humblest agricultural labourer or artisan would be placed on the register automatically and without trouble, but the plural voter had to go through a great number of complicated arrangements, and so many difficulties were placed in his way, that it would be a marvel if he got on the register at all. A considerable number of the plural voters were men who had a large stake in the country, and they would be disfranchised because they would have chosen another constituency than that in which a by-election took place. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman's heart. The right hon. Gentleman and himself were much in the same position. They both happened to reside in St. George's, Hanover Square, and also had votes in the New Forest Division of Hampshire. They would probably select the former constituency because they generally resided there, with the result that they would be disfranchised in the New Forest Division, and not allowed to vote there if a by-election occurred. Everybody — even the agricultural labourers—had a vote there, and yet the right hon. Gentleman and himself would not be allowed to exercise their vote in the constituency. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment.

*Mr. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said the contention on the opposite side was to give certain people more than one vote. They were trying to get at a by-election what the Bill was doing away with at a general election. Anyone elected one month who had to return to his constituency the next month to contest a by-election would find a different set of electors. There was a division of Lancashire where there were nearly 6,000 freehold votes, and at the by-election, if this Amendment was carried, the same man who had been returned at the general election might find a large majority of these voters agaist him and so lose his seat. The reason for the Bill was to prevent one man having more votes and more political power than another man. Hon. Members opposite might consider that it was to prevent certain Conservatives having more votes than one. Of course the Conservative Party was the propertied class, and it would affect them more. Their contention on the Liberal side was that one man was as good as another, and that one man should not have more political power than another. That was the very thing this Bill would accomplish.

Lord R. CECIL said the Committee were indebted to the hon. Member for his admirable candour in frankly stating that the whole reason for this Bill was that those electors who had a property qualification, and were generally Unionists, were to be disfranchised.

Mr. CAWLEY said the noble Lord had misunderstood him. What he said was that the Bill was intended to prevent people with large property qualifications from having more votes than people who were small property owners. Incidentally the Conservatives would be most affected by that change.

Lord R. CECIL said the hon. Member did not use the word "incidentally" in his first statement.

Mr. CAWLEY: I apologise.

Lord R. CECIL said it had been stated that under certain circumstances there would be a different constituency at by-elections from that at general elections. That occurred at the present day. Let them take the case of a person having votes in two divisions of the same borough. He could not vote for both at a general election, but he could vote in either at a by-election. At a by-election all the electors could vote, whereas at a general election it was perfectly well known that if elections took place on the same day they could only give their vote in one place. Therefore they had already this terrible anomaly. That could not be the real ground for opposing the Amendment. On the highest democratic grounds the Amendment ought to be accepted. Surely there was nothing clearer in the principles of democracy than that no unnecessary disfranchisement should take place, and if the Government were prepared to accept that principle they ought to accept the Amendment. The only possible reason for its refusal was that the Government desired to disfranchise voters in order, if possible, to secure another Liberal majority in the future. Everybody knew that that was the true genesis of the Bill.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 303. (Division List, No. 328.)

## AYES.

Acland-Hood, RtHn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, LordR.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A.(Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(LanarkGovan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(KentAshford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hon.Col.W
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar(Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lowe, Sir FrancisWilliam
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Bull and Mr. Rawlinson.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland(Christchurch)
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W.C.B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams (Devonprt
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E
Boulton. A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A.(InvernessBurghs)
Burke. E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Cairns, Thomas
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough. W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinstd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies. W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Bardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Haride, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman(SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Kitson, Sir James
Laildaw, Rovert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barrett, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkrikB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornmall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (RoscommonN
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central )
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S,
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer. Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldon, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway

White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesborough)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER moved an Amendment omitting from the clause the words providing that an elector registered in more than one constituency should not only not vote, but should not "ask for a ballot or voting paper, for the purpose of so voting," except in the selected constituency. He wished to point out to the Committee what was the punishment which would be inflicted on a person who, by an error of judgment, it might be, contravened the provisions of the Bill. He would be liable to two years hard labour without the option of a fine. He thought that such a penalty was rather rough. This was a very important point, because the punishment for personation was imprisonment for two years with hard labour, without the option of a fine. Therefore, what was being said by this Bill was that a plural voter was to be liable to that punishment for a mistake or error in judgment. He ventured to think that that was a very serious objection to the Bill, and he thought he had a right to ask hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House who had any of those principles of humanity and justice which were generally claimed for the Liberal Party to vote with him in opposing the proposal. It was quite right that if a man asked for a voting paper to which he was not entitled he ought to be punished, but he thought the Committee would agree that here the punishment exceeded the offence. The punishment would be quite right if the right of plural voting did not exist at all, and a man went up and asked for a voting paper and voted when he had no right to do so; then there would be something for which he should be subjected to punishment. In the last Bill brought forward on this subject the punishment was limited to a fine of £100, but now it was suggested that it should go further. The plural voter, it was said, had the right of selection during a period of seven years, but he challenged any hon. Member to say that after seven years he would recollect which constituency he had selected. There might have been during the seven years no by-election, and nothing to remind a plural voter of the matter, and then when an election came on an agent might come and say that the man was on the register, and that he wanted him to come and vote. There was nothing to show which constituency had been selected, and the authorities ought to have an index, by means of which they could show a man that he had no right to vote if such was really the case. The whole system was laid down in such a way as to set a trap for the unwary plural voter, and he considered that it was a most improper thing that he should be made subject to this extreme punishment. They had only to consider the process which went on at the time when the register was made; they knew the activity of agents at that time, their efforts being devoted to getting everybody upon the register and to asking them to signify which way they were going to vote. They also knew the careless way in which voters exercised those votes, and when an agent came in and asked a man to perform this ceremony of "starring" his name for a particular constituency it was possible that afterwards the man would not recollect which particular constituency he had "starred." For not recollecting, however, he was to be subjected to this severe punishment, which, if it were provided for, would, in his judgment, be a travesty of justice. He thought the Bill would destroy the equal right of voting between man and man, and he did not think that they were putting the matter upon a proper basis by introducing a system which would mean constant errors, constant difficulties to voters, and which would lead to the plural voter requiring from the Liberal or Conservative agent before he voted a guarantee that he was not "starred" anywhere else. Without some such guarantee in future he ventured to say that no sensible plural voter would exercise his right to vote. No doubt this might be made the subject of a jeer by hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it was a serious question, and he repeated that this class of voters would not exercise their vote unless they had such an undertaking.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the words 'or ask for a ballot or voting paper for the purpose of so voting.'"—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said the hon. Member must excuse him for saying that he had not devoted any part of his interesting and important speech to the Amendment on the Paper.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) rose to a point of order and asked whether it was in order for any hon. Gentleman to say that the speech of another hon. Member had not been in support of the Amendment when that speech had been delivered under the authority of the Chair.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that statements of that kind had been made all the afternoon by speakers of both sides, and were not meant, he thought, as a reflection on the Chair.

MR. HARCOURT said he did not wish to be disrespectful to the hon. Member towards whom he wished to observe all the courtesies of debate. The point which he had in his mind was the differentiation that the hon. Member made between an attempt to commit an offence, and the case in which an offence had been committed, because he had always understood that as a general principle of law an attempt was treated in the same way as the actual committal of the offence. That was a general statement of the law which he thought lawyers would not deny.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN dissented, and said the punishments were different.

MR. HARCOURT pointed out that he had not said that the punishment was the same; all he had said was that the offence was the same. For thirty-four years we had been living under these penalties for exactly the same offence. Under Section 24 of the Ballot Act, 1872, it was an offence for a voter to ask for a voting paper or to vote in more than one division of a city in which he had several qualifications. Under Schedule 3 of the Corrupt Practices Act, 1883, which applied Section 24 of the Ballot Act, 1872, that offence was impersonation and was punishable by exactly these penalties. This Bill did nothing more than extend the existing law and make it equal in the same circumstances. The existing law prohibited a certain class of plural voters voting, and the Bill merely extended that law to other classes of plural voters.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) contended that the Bill did not proceed on the lines of the legislation of 1872. There was a great difference between the case of a man who lived on the borders of two constituencies in which he had votes and went by mistake to the wrong polling-station and the case of a man who, having voted in one division, deliberately voted in another division.

MR. HARCOURT said the section was governed by the word "knowingly."

*MR. BRIDGEMAN admitted that the word "knowingly" made a considerable amount of difference, but contended that it did not put a poor man not well up in election law in a very much better position. They had it on the authority of the Secretary to the Board of Education that the reason why Clause 4 of the Education Bill was not extended to the rural districts was that the rural voter was so deplorably stupid and ignorant that he would not understand in which way he was to give his vote. What then would occur under this Bill? He also thought that to put on the elector the onus of proof that he had not committed the Act "knowingly" was to put upon him a serious liability, and further that the punishment involved did not in the least fit the crime.

SIR WILLIAM BULL said that this discussion showed the absolute necessity of what he had urged before, namely, that they should have the Order in Council on the Table. They ought to know exactly how the register was being prepared. Supposing a man went into a polling booth, demanded a ballot paper, gave a name which was not his own, and voted, and it was subsequently discovered that the man whose name was given was starred in another division. How were they going to deal with a case of that kind? Were they going to call upon this man thirty miles away and compel him to prove an alibi, and show that he was somewhere else at the time? He wanted to see the machinery by which this Bill was to be carried out. Was the selection to be made when the claim first came up for consideration, or when?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was not a lawyer but, with all humility, he ventured to challenge the right hon. Gentleman's reading of the law. The offence under consideration was not personation, although the House of Commons could call it so if it liked. It would be monstrous to treat in exactly the same way a man who, having no qualification, pretended to be somebody he was not, and exercised that somebody's right, and a man who having more than one qualification attempted to exercise more than one. The offences were not comparable. He did not think the Act of 1883 supported the right hon. Gentleman's contention. The real offence of personation was one of the gravest that could be committed in an election, and he thought two years hard labour would not be too great a punishment for it. He only wished the offence were less prevalent, and could be more easily detected. He did not hesitate to say that if the punishment fell with certainty on those who were guilty of this offence, some Members of the House would have been defeated. But in a case where a man who had more than one qualification attempted to use more than one, they might at least leave with the prosecution the onus of proving that fraud was intended. He submitted that the right hon. Gentleman was wrong in his general statement of the law. He had ventured to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman, and to ask him if the punishments for murder and for attempted murder were the same. The answer of the right hon. Gentleman was that the evidence was the same in both cases. They did not get any explanation from the right hon. Gentleman himself; he was far too wise. The right hon. Gentleman spoke gently to them and would persuade them that he was animated only by a desire to purify the electoral system. But this was partisan legislation of the narrowest kind. It was vindictive legislation. The infliction of the harsh penalties in such cases as might arise under the Bill would compel the re-consideration of the question. The right hon. Gentleman could not contend that this Amendment struck at the root of the Bill. It was well within the scope of the measure and was called for by ordinary considerations of justice and equity. He hoped even now before the debate closed the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter and would agree to some less savage penalty for an offence which might be committed quite innocently, though the offender might find it difficult to prove his lapse of memory, and which was not at all on a footing with the other cases for which this penalty was imposed.

MR. HARCOURT said he certainly would not contend that the Amendment struck at the root of the Bill, but what it did was to strike at the principles of the present law. The right hon. Gentleman had truly said that he was not a lawyer. Nor was he himself. But both of them had access to the ordinary means of ascertaining the law, which they were supposed to know, and ignorance of which was held to be no excuse for breaking it.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that was so, but it rather strengthened his argument that where ignorance could prevail among the Members of the House of Commons vindictive penalties should not be imposed.

MR. HARCOURT said he was sorry that ignorance should prevail among some Members of the House on such a subject as this, because the subject had been dealt with fully by legislation which was largely the creation of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, the Registration Act of 1885 and the Redistribution Act of the same year. As it was made an offence by that previous legislation to ask for more than one ballot paper in more than one division of a borough, so it would now be made an offence to ask for more than one ballot paper for more than one constituency in the same year. The law was merely assimilated and the same penalties applied. There was no foundation for a charge of savagery, as this was the same law as that under which they had lived in comparative security for some time.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the discussion had gone rather wide of the actual Amendment, and he should not follow a bad example except by putting in a caveat against anticipating a discussion on the word "knowingly," because if this Bill should be passed in its present form there was a strong argument that the word would so hamper prosecutions as to make the Bill nugatory. The present more difficult offence of duplicate voting was commonly committed; although he did not like to name constituencies, there were instances well known to him. In one constituency with which he was well acquainted it was admitted by both sides that forty-one electors voted twice in the last election and not a single prosecution followed.

MR. HARCOURT said Section 24 of the Ballot Act declared that a person should be deemed to be guilty of personation who applied for a ballot paper after having voted.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that was the very point on which he was about to challenge the right hon. Gentleman. The section mentioned contained the words "who having voted once." The offence under this Bill, however, was that of applying not after having voted but after having been registered. This was a case of a man entitled to vote in a number of constituencies, who was starred for one, but forgot which, applying for a voting paper without having voted and under a pure misapprehension, and he was bound to show that he did not knowingly ask for the paper. The two offences were different.

MR. HARCOURT said the Registration Act laid down that a man having more than one qualification in the same borough should vote only for his place of abode, and the Redistribution Act laid down that, if he attempted to vote in any other place, he should be guilty of personation.

MR. CLAUDE HAY reminded the Committee that it was this Government which, by its legislation during the first two months of its existence, had put the onous of proving innocence upon the accused, and had endeavoured to destroy by its legislation a great principle of our national life, namely, that a man was considered innocent until he had been proved guilty. In this Bill they had made it practically a crime to ask for a ballot paper, and they were endeavouring to establish the fact that the man asking for the ballot paper was a guilty man until he had proved his innocence.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether it was not the fact that, if the Bill passed in its present form, a man who had a qualification in two or more constituences, and who did not take the initiative and did not make any selection under the Bill, would be placed in a position in which no other subject of the Crown was placed, and would not be permitted to exercise the rights to which he was naturally and legally entitled? Not having made a selection, he was therefore a disfranchised citizen. He was deprived of his ordinary right as a voter. Having been, by a very natural and simple omission, deprived of his ordinary right as a voter he, oblivious of the fact, went and voted at one, only one, of the two places for which he was qualified, or rather he asked for a voting paper at one of the two places at which he was naturally entitled to vote. There was no question of personation and no question of voting twice. He went and asked to be allowed to vote once where he was naturally entitled to vote. He was then put in the position of a criminal on his trial, and had got to prove that what he had done he had not done knowingly. ["No."] Yes, he was on his trial. The whole presumption was against him. He had done that which *prima facie* was his legal right. He could be brought up before a tribunal, it could be said he was a criminal in the eye of the law until he could prove his innocence or ignorance. He was a man who did nothing more than make what, but for this Bill, would be a natural and righteous claim. Yet such a man could be put on trial for an offence for which the penalty might be two years imprisonment with hard labour. He was told that no Judge was now inhuman enough to inflict two years imprisonment with hard labour, as it was known to be utterly destructive of health. There was no resemblance here to the case of polling twice in one borough. What resemblance could there be? Yet such a penalty was provided for a man who, having accidentally disfranchised himself by not making a certain application, tried to exercise a qualification to vote which he would have possessed but for this iniquitous provision. The right hon. Gentleman's defence was of the lamest description. He relied upon precedent. But he forgot that he was making new legislation of a wholly unexampled character. If the right hon. Gentleman was bent on creating a new offence let him at least make the penalty bear some proportion to the gravity of the offence.

MR. HARCOURT said the unnecessary heat imported into the discussion by the right hon. Gentleman — he meant nothing offensive to him—had arisen from the right hon. Gentleman's in a moment of inadvertence—like the voter—having taken the hon. Member for Hoxton as his legal adviser, and being misled by him, The pathetic picture of the plural voter, who, because he innocently violated the provision, languished in prison till his death, because the right hon. Gentleman assumed that he would not live to be released, was wholly imaginary, as the provision was governed by the word "knowingly." He was aware that that part of the provision "knowingly" could not be debated now, but he mentioned it in order to assure the right hon. Gentleman that for this night at all events he might sleep in peace.

SIR E. CARSON said he did not think, apart from any view one could take of the law, that this was a matter that could be treated as a trivial one. He was not sure that those great gifts of sarcasm and the skill of which the right hon. Gentleman had shown himself to be such a master in making jokes of serious things were properly applied in an important matter of this kind. What was it that they wanted to do by this Bill? They wanted to prevent a man voting in more than one place. Did not the Committee think that if they enacted that if a man voted in more than one place he should become a felon subject to two years hard labour and the loss of his civil rights for seven years, this democratic House of Commons would have gone far enough? The right hon. Gentleman, in his thirst for his adversary's blood, went further and said that although a man had not voted twice, or even at all, yet because he came forward and asked for a voting paper, being one of those accursed people who had two qualifications, he was to be branded as a felon. Was the right hon. Gentleman adding to the justice of the Bill in going beyond the punishment of the man who voted twice? Let them not, for Heaven's sake, brand as a felon a man who had not voted at all, but simply asked for a voting paper.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 340; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 329.)

## AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair

Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H W .
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm J(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dickinson, WH. (St. Pancras,N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin(Walsall

Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh're
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael

Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
McCallum, John M.
McCrae, George
McHugh, Patrick A.
McKillop, W.
McLaren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
McLaren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N

O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (Southampton
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. de R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes — Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edmd
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, Jn. Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesal
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.

Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid

Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES,—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) drew attention to the fact that the door of the inner lobby had not been locked during the division; and that that was the only reason why the division had taken so long. He wished to point out that it was almost impossible to carry out the new Rules unless these doors were locked at the proper time.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for drawing his attention to this matter, and he would take care that it did not occur again.

LORD R. CECIL said he wished to move an Amendment which was not on the Paper, but which was of a very simple character. It was to substitute for the word "seven" the word "fifteen." The effect of that would be that this Bill would have no operative effect until the year 1917. That appeared to be a proposal which excited the mirth of hon. Members opposite, but he had observed that very little was sufficient to excite their mirth, and he thought that the proposal was not only a serious one but one which would commend itself to every fair-minded man in the Committee. The Bill was brought forward to remove what were described as certain anomalies. These anomalies had been variously described by hon. Members who had addressed the Committee, but the hon. Member for Prestwich, speaking of an Amendment which would have removed disfranchisement in the case of a by-election, said that there was a division in Lancashire where there were 8,000 voters of this class and that if this Bill were not carried every Liberal candidate would find those votes against him. That was the reason for the whole Bill. He ventured to think, however, before the anomaly dealt with by the Bill was removed, there were other anomalies in the election law of this country which craved much more earnestly for removal than this one, which at its worst amounted to this, that certain electors had under certain conditions rather more voting power than other electors had. There were, as he had said, other anomalies of a much more serious character than that, and if they were going to put their election law into a more satisfactory condition they must remove those anomalies also. It was in order to provide time for legislation to remove those anomalies that he proposed that this Bill should not come into operation until the year 1917. One of these anomalies was the withholding of votes from women in regard to the election of Members of Parliament. He said, and said it with the assent of the majority of hon. Members opposite, that that was a very serious anomaly, and one which ought to be removed speedily. In spite of recent events, which they all deplored, he said that that was an anomaly that could be defended upon no principle of democratic legislation, and in his opinion could not be defended on any ground of expediency. He did not want to go through all the reasons why women should have votes, because they were familiar to hon. Members opposite, but he would recall some of them.

MR. PAUL rose to order and wished to know whether the question of women's suffrage was relevant to this Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the question of women's suffrage was not relevant to this Bill, as he had already ruled. He did not think that the noble Lord could go into that subject at any length, but he was entitled to call attention to the anomaly.

Sir FRANCIS LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston) asked whether it was the case that the question of the extension of the franchise to women could not be discussed on a Bill of this kind, which proposed to deal with and alter the existing franchise?

*The CHAIRMAN: That is precisely the point I ruled.

Lord R. CECIL said he would obey the ruling of the Chair, but all he said was that before this law came into operation one gross anomaly ought to be removed. He quite agreed that no very lengthy discussion would be advisable, and he did not propose to discuss the matter at length. [Ministerial cries of "Move the closure."] He should certainly not be deterred by any want of courtesy on the other side from putting forward his case upon this occasion. The case for women's suffrage was briefly——[Ministerial cries of "Order, order."] He did not know whether it was intended to allow the right of free speech in this House. [Ministerial cries of "You are disobeying the ruling of the Chair," and counter cries of "The Chair knows its own business better than you."] What he was endeavouring to put before the Committee, subject to the ruling of the Chairman on the question of order and not the opinion of irresponsible Members, was only a short reference to the argument which was used in favour of women's suffrage. That argument was put generally on the ground of principle. It was said, and said rightly, that everything that could be said that would justify the granting to an ordinary adult citizen of this country the right to vote for a Member of Parliament could be said with equal force of women, and those hon. Members who took the view that the franchise was a matter of right—and there were a large number of Members on the opposite side of the House who took that view—felt that women had an equal right to the franchise with men.

*The CHAIRMAN said he must tell the noble Lord that he was out of order in arguing this question in detail. He might mention the anomaly, but he must not argue the matter at length.

Lord R. CECIL said he was endeavouring to obey the ruling of the Chair, and he ventured to submit that the interruptions of hon. Members on the other side who did not agree with the arguments advanced on his side of the House were disorderly. The point he was making was that here was a great anomaly and a large class of people were excluded from the franchise. Some held that that was justified on the ground of right and others on the ground of expediency. All who advocated women's suffrage regarded the matter as one of the highest importance. [Cries of "Name."] He was not arguing the matter, but no one could doubt that it was a matter of first class importance and constituted a serious anomaly. Instead of dealing with that anomaly, however, the Government dealt with a much smaller anomaly, and his contention was that before the House allowed this legislation to become operative they must give ample time to the Legislature to correct the anomaly which had been recognised for a long time by the majority of this House, who were pledged to remove it. If hon. Members did not support this Amendment they would lose their chance of correcting the anomaly, though perhaps they were not in earnest about what they said. He appealed to those hon. Members who were pledged to give women's suffrage, and so remedy a far greater anomaly than this Bill at present dealt with, to support the Amendment as the only effective way of enforcing their views in regard to the enfranchisement of women.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said this was not a Franchise Bill. [Cries of "It is a Disfranchise Bill."] The noble Lord might just as well have moved to leave out 1907 and insert the Greek Kalends. If the Bill was a good one it should be passed now; it was not like wine that would improve by being kept ten years. He could not himself see any half-way house. The majority of the House had agreed this was a good Bill, and therefore he could not recommend that it should be postponed for ten years.

MR. RAWLINSON said he only rose because the Amendment which he proposed to move had been ruled out of order, and the only way of raising the point dealt with by that Amendment was upon the Amendment now before the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee that this was neither a Franchise Bill nor a Disfranchise Bill. As a matter of fact, it was most emphatically a disfranchising Bill. Its intention was to disfranchise a large number of people who at present had a vote. A person who now had a vote in more than one constituency could vote in each constituency. In the future if this Bill passed he could only vote in one place, and was disfranchised in the remaining constituencies. Further than that, hon. Members knew perfectly well that unless the voter took the precaution which, in his opinion, from his experience of registration work, not one voter in fifty would take, he would be disfranchised in every constituency in which under the present law he would have a vote. This was a Bill which essentially dealt with the franchise and altered it. What better answer to the statements of the right hon. Gentleman who was in charge of the Bill could there be than the speech of the one hon. Gentleman besides the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill who had been allowed to speak from the Government side of the Committee. That hon. Gentleman told the Committee frankly that the passing of this Bill meant that in one constituency 8,000 voters would be lost to the Unionist Party. It was undoubtedly a Bill that would affect the voters in a large number of constituencies. It might set right one anomaly, but there were other anomalies which existed at the present time, and he contended that all the anomalies that at present existed in the law should so far as possible be dealt with at the same time.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the hon. Gentleman appeared to be making a Second Reading speech.

MR. RAWLINSON said the reason why he should support the Amendment was, that if this Bill did not come into force till 1917, it would give time to the Government to deal with some of the other questions.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Whereupon MR. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Thursday, 25th October,* 1906.

## VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH.

Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Tuesday last, that the right of the Viscount Molesworth to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such Report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

The Viscount Bridport sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

The Earl Ashburnham took the Oath.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; of inhabitants, ratepayers, parents, or teachers in the following districts or parishes: Wansford; St. Dunstans; Shalstone; Skipwith; Stoke St. Milburgh; Willian; Thorner and Scarcroft; Clevedon; Llanyre and Llanfihangel; Pontefract (Rural Deanery); Uplowman; Nantmel; West Camel; Wardington; Blockley; Smeeth; Hurst; Bonnington; Willesborough; Silian; Newtown Linford; Kirk Ella, West Ella; Willerby; Colwinstone; Pewsey; Nailsea; Menheiniot; Hazelwood; Iffley; Diocese of Salisbury (Board of Finance); Pontefract; Sibbertoft; Aston Botterell; Kingsworth; Kingsworth; Gildersome; Gildersome; Denstone; Denstone; Catworth; Long Marston; Epperstone; Chapel Allerton; Barnet; Abbess Roding; Milton; Redbank; Whatley; Yerbeston and Loveston; Bardsey; Old Romney and Midley; Detling; Wapling and Codrington (2); Lower Halston: Sapiston; Sapiston; Mattersey; Headon-in-Upton; Horton; Llangoran: Penyclawdd; Ludgershall; Connah's Quay; Wood Green and Hornsey; Shepton Mallet; Bromfield; Hatherden; Stanton Lacy; Muswell Hill; Chorlesbury; St. Leonards; Ellesborough; Weston Turville; Wendover; Hawridge; Wandsworth Common; Frant; Loddington; Sutton-on-the-Hill; East Retford; Holbrook; Compton; Hawley; Nassington; Yarwell; Derby City; Stubton; Askham Bryan; Farnborough; Haggerston (St. Chad's); Swavesey; Farncombe; Blackburn (Christ Church); Addington; West Malling; West Malling; Charlyinch; Canterbury (Holy Cross and St. Peters); Burton Agnes; Burton Agnes; Bowstreet; Lower Hardres; Hornsey (Holy Innocents); Shepton Montague; Glasbury; Lower Crumpsall; Raglan; Netherfield; Great Waltham; Great Waltham; Tubney; Coniston Cold; Credenhill; Nunnington; Nunnington; Swainswick; Swainswick; Llantarnum; Shamley Green; Northborough; Holmwood; Taunton; Kirkstall; Ludgershall; Farnborough; Weston-super-Mare; Bowes; Offham; Britwell Prior; Chelsea (Christ Church); Syerston; East Stoke; Screveton; Marnham; Grassthorpe; Weston; Weston; Longford; Everton; Potternewton; Midsomer Norton; Midsomer Norton; Carlton le Moorland; Ruckinge; Kewstoke; Croft; Chester (Holy Trinity); Blackwell; Dinder; Hallaton; Leeds (Camp Road Church); Caunton; Beverley Minster; Godalming; Earls Court (St. Matthias); Earls Court (St. Matthias); Thorpe; Manston; Aston Abbots; Canterbury (St. Dunstans); Lathbury; Canterbury (St. Mary, Bredin); Long Benton; Crofton; Astwood and Hardmead; Rockingham; Denver; Patrick Brompton; Alkborough; New Wortley; Benson; Easby; Bapchild; Rodmersham; Upper Armley; Llandog; Wakefield; Coatham; Darwen; Weston; Tunbridge Wells (St. Barnabas); Frome (Selwood Parish Church); Frome (Selwood); Diddlebury; West Kirby; Ince; Birstall; Byford and Mansel Gamage; Middlesbro; Frome; Highclere; Woodford Bridge; Leeds (All Souls); Little Oakley; Miserden; Fitz; Woodhouse; Tremadoc; Lympsham; Dorset; Cockfield; Bedford, St. Cuthberts; Bedford, St. Peter; Bedford, St. Martin; Haslington; Orwell; Conington; Linton; Witchford; Cambridge, St. Andrew Great; Anington; Great Saxham; Wynnington; Alwalton; Aldham; Woburn; Great Cornard; Eaton Bray; Conington; East Hatley; Hartford; Hadleigh; Croydon cum Clapton; Haddenham;

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

Keysoe; Shelton; Isleham; Bottisham; Guilden Morden; Thurston; Newton; Weston Colville; Caxton; Horringer; Litlington; Eversholt; Bedford, St. Peter; Dunton; Great and Little Abbington; Little Ouse; Leighton Bromswold; Woodside; Tilbrook; Hulcote and Salford; Graveley; Swaffham Prior; Stanton; Cavendish; Bures; Milton Ernest; Sandy; Willingham; Fletton; Knotting; Hassett; Barton Mills; Bedford, St. Pauls; Kings Ripton; Woodstone; Horseheath; Wimpole; Sudbury, All Saints; Thorney; Impington; Leavenheath; Chettisham; Clifton; Brent Eleigh; Cambridge, St. Phillips; Wentworth; Hinxton; Great Staughton; Freckenham; Exning; Houghton; Whetstead; Waresley; Sauston; Abbotsley; Great Bradley; Stradishall; Niston; Icklingham; Henlow; Great Gidding; Longstone; Euston; Hinxton; Little Stukeley; Water Newton; Luton, Christ Church; Woolpit; Gravenhurst; Witcham; Isleham; Whaddon; Elveden; Wicken; Brampton; Leverington; Willingham; Potton; Higham Green; Little Bradley; Gransden; Parson Drove; Great Shelford; Cambridge, St. Edwards; Cambridge, St. Peters; Snailwell; Manea; West Wickham; Bradfield, St. Clare; Studham; Odell; Little Staughton; Cambridge, Holy Trinity; Little Waldingfield; Cranfield; Newton; Yelling; Elm; Chesterton; Eynesbury; Cockayne Hatley; Hundon; Bury; Ramsey, St. Mary; Egginton; Slowlangtoft; Glatton; Stansfield; Ickworth; Bedford, St. John; Childesley; Haddon; Wiston; Nayland; Wixoe; Clapham; Swineshead; Yielden; Flitton; Cheveley; Caddington; Offord D'arcy; Tadlow; Stow Longa; Pampisford; Cambridge, Holy Sepulchre; Hargrave; Horningsey; Bromham; Offord Cluny; Hatley, St. George; Elsworth; Duxford; Great Fakenham; Worlington; Sapiston; Bassingbourne; Ixworth; Hemingford Abbots; Bourn; Holwell; Goldingham; Little Thulow; Papworth, St. Agnes; Cambridge, St. Matthew; Eaton Socon; Cambridge, St. Paul; Pondsbridge; Biddenham; Drinkstone; Ravensden; Silsoe; Benwick; Hemingford Grey; Cambridge, St. Giles and St. Peter; Biggleswade; St. Michael, Cambridge; Kimbolton; Cambridge, St. Phillips; Doddington; Shefford; Trumpington; Stapleford; Kennett; Stansfield; Hartest; Upper Stondon; Westoning; Whittlesey; Lakenheath; Shillington; Cambridge (All Saints); Ailesey; Stow cum Quy; Spaldwich; Luton (St. Matthew); Great Barford; Stetchworth; Ridley cum Fenton; Fordham; Chesterton (St. Andrew); Great Catworth; Mildenhall; Eyeworth; Ramsey; Brinkley; Renhold; Great Saxham; Risby; Oakington; Flitton; Badwell Ash; Walsham-le-Willows; Abbington; Dounham; Fen Ditton; Milchbourne; Over; Houghton Conquest; Stotfold; Hamerton; Hatley (St. George); Clophill; Abbots Ripton; Lidlington; Cople; Gidding; Millbrook; Kennett; Wooton; Hardwicke; Buckworth; Mard (St. Winduda); Felsham; Longstone; Cambridge (St. Barnabas); Ickleton; Leighton Buzzard; Clare; March; Thorpe Morieux; Bildeston; Molesworth; Lindsay; Wisbech (St. Mary); Dalham; Old Warden; Bedford (St. Mary); Wilburton; Little Shelford; Diddington; Hitcham; Stilton; Wilshamstead; Riseley; Cambridge (All Saints); Dunstable; Luton (St. Mary); Castle Camps; Boxford; Hildersham; Lode Hadleigh; Wyton; Bartlow; Cambridge (St. Matthew; Rural Deanery of St. Albans; Quorn; Thringstone; Lyddington; Caldecott; Lydbury North; Chillenden; Great Casterton; Willesborough; Hurst; Smeeth; Newtown Lynford; Archdeaconry of Ludlow. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; of trustees of Church of England schools in the Diocese of York. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### BOARD OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION BILL, 1906).

Note explaining the Repeal Schedule.

### IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Returns for the months of August and September, 1906.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (VENTILATION).

Illustrations of methods of dust extraction in factories and workshops, compiled by Commander Sir H. S. Freer-Smith, R.N. (late His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories).

### TRADE REPORTS : ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3724. Persia (Trade of Khorassan for 1905–1906).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the councils of the following county and city, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective districts—

County of Glamorgan (within the Coedffranc Parish and Maestag Urban District respectively;

City of Cardiff—

(i.) Within the Cathay's, Park, Roath, and Adamsdown (part of) wards of the city.

(ii.) Parts of the Central Ward of the city.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACT, 1891.

Additional regulation made by the Lord-Lieutenant, under Sections 8 and 9 of the Act, for the taking of finger prints and measuring and photographing of prisoners.

### MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.

Order in Council altering the scale set out in the second schedule to the Act for the purpose of the levying of the light dues in pursuance of the Act.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

---

## EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

*Lord STANMORE, who had given notice, on the Motion that the House should now resolve itself into Committe, to move—

> "That the consideration of this Bill in Committee be deferred until the effect of the Education Act, 1902, as regards the liability of local education authorities to defray the cost of religious instruction in schools not provided by them has been finally determined by a judgment of this House in the case of the King *versus* the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire, now pending on appeal,"

said : My Lords, when I first undertook to bring forward the Motion which stands in my name to-day the circumstances were not exactly the same as they are now. At that time the long delay of His Majesty's Government in bringing forward an appeal in the case of the West Riding judgment led to the general belief that it was not intended to bring forward an appeal at all. Since then the appeal has been made, and I assumed that the resolution of His Majesty's Government to do this would necessarily involve some delay in taking the Committee stage of the Bill in this House. It did not occur to me as possible that the idea could be entertained of carrying on *pari passu* a debate in this House and a judicial inquiry into the effect of the provisions of the existing Act. I therefore expected that I should not be called upon to make any such Motion. I was advised, however, to keep it on the Paper. Well, His Majesty's Government have taken that course which seemed to me impossible, and they are apparently supported in it both by the Leaders of the Opposition and, as I understand, by the right rev. Prelates. That is a great array of authority. I cannot say that I am myself convinced that the objections to proceeding with the Bill——

The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I beg the noble Lord's pardon for interrupting him. I think he is under a misapprehension. I should like to ask upon what he relies for the statement that His Majesty's Government were supported by the front Opposition Bench in proceeding with the Bill.

*Lord STANMORE: I relied upon the fact that when the statement was made by the Leader of the House as to the Government's intentions no remark and no challenge of any kind was made by the noble Marquess or by any noble Lord on that side of the House. That was my chief ground for the statement, though I have others, of which the noble Marquess cannot be unaware. However that may be, I think that the objections to the course proposed to be taken are grave. The answers to those objections appear to me to be wholly inadequate. The first and most plausible reason assigned for going on with the Bill in spite of the appeal is that the matter which comes before the Court of Appeal is one which does not very largely concern the Bill now before the House. Even if that were true, I do not think it would be a sufficient reason, for I hold that this House has a right, when it is called upon practically to reverse an Act which it passed two years before, to be in full possession of the real meaning of the Act which it is called upon to destroy. It is not only its right but its duty that it should be so. An Act gravely passed by this House and generally adopted should not be repealed or practically set aside for reasons which may turn out to be not well founded. We ought to know what an Act is and what it does before we proceed to its destruction. I cannot agree that the matter is unimportant in itself, or that it does not affect, and largely affect, the consideration of the Bill in Committee. We have been told in this House that the opposition to the Act of 1902, and the prejudice against that Act, largely contributed to swell the majority which placed His Majesty's present Government in power. Now, how far that is the case I do not intend to inquire, but this I do say, and I do not think it can be denied, that in so far as that opposition to the Act of 1902 had an effect on the General Election of 1906, it was chiefly and mainly due to the belief on the part of those so opposing it that the Act enacted what those who objected to it considered to be grave injustice. It has now been judicially decided, and the decision may be confirmed when this judgment has been given—that there was no such grievance at all. In that case half of the opposition to the Act of 1902 falls; and if that opposition so falls, it is quite on the cards that the Act of 1902, relieved from the principal cause of objection to it, may still be found a good foundation on which to frame a really lasting and satisfactory Education Bill—which the Bill now before us, I fear, can never be. So thinking, I should wish to pause before voting on the first clause. If the judgment of the Appeal Court be affirmed, I should vote against it in the hope of a settlement under the existing system. If the judgment be reversed, I should vote for the clause with Amendments, feeling that a new law was inevitable. The main objection to my Motion is that the appeal does not affect the Bill, but others are also advanced.

We are told that if we delay the judgment we may perhaps wreck the Bill. Well, my Lords, I have no wish to wreck the Bill. I wish to amend it; but I do not think that we must make the wreckage of the Bill the test and line by which we are to guide our conscience. It has been declared in this House by many—and I believe it is felt by a majority—that certain great Amendments are required in this Bill if it is to go through. Are we to consider as our prime object whether the Bill will be wrecked if they be rejected—as rejected they may be—in another place? Then I have been told, and strangely enough, from both sides of the House, that there is a tactical advantage in the course which it is proposed to pursue. My Lords, I suspect clever moves for the sake of a tactical advantage. They often succeed at the moment; they carry you through a momentary difficulty; but almost invariably, as experience shows, they come back in an unpleasant manner upon those who have made them. I say that in my mind, and I think in the mind of many of your Lordships, the reasons for pressing on in haste are inadequate, and I believe there are many Members of this House—there is certainly a very large body in the country—holding the opinion that I do as to the impolicy of proceeding until a judgment has been given.

But there is the fact that His Majesty's Government, and, as I understand, though my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition seemed to disclaim the charge, the majority of the Opposition and of the right rev. Prelates are all agreed that it is desirable to go on immediately without waiting. Well, my Lords, that is your responsibility. Some noble Lords have whispered that they agreed with me that we ought not to go on, but that they would throw the responsibility on the Government. No, my Lords, you cannot do that. You might do it if the Government was in possession of a great majority in this House. As things are it is not with the Government but with the House itself that the responsibility must rest. The House seems inclined, so far as I can judge from indications which have reached me, to take that responsibility, and in the face of a foregone conclusion I do not think I am justified in taking up the time of the House by pressing the Motion standing in my name. I therefore propose, unless some Member of your Lordships' House to whose opinion I should feel bound to defer should express a contrary view, to withdraw the Motion and to content myself in the belief that I have discharged my duty by expressing, as I do now express, my deep regret that the House should be committed to a step which it appears to me will either prevent noble and learned Lords from taking part in the debate which is to come on of matters relating to that subject, or else will lead to the grotesque and unseemly spectacle of noble and learned Lords sitting here in the evening as legislators, and if on the Government side of the House perhaps denouncing the wrongs done by the Act of 1902, and then sitting in the morning in their capacity as Judges to consider whether any grievance at all exists.

That is not only in itself undesirable, but there lies in it a danger of the whole of the judicial privileges of the House being viewed unfavourably outside. That would be, in my opinion, one of the greatest calamities that could befall the country; but, at the same time, it cannot be denied that logically there are objections to connecting judicial with legislative functions. It would be an evil day if their severance were demanded in the case of this great Court of Appeal. I therefore wish, before sitting down, to express my deep regret that your Lordships are committed to a course which is hardly respectful to the House in its judicial capacity, which I think is fraught with some danger to the judicial establishment of the House, and which shows an impatient haste which does not usually characterise the proceedings of this assembly.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, I trust the noble Lord who has just sat down will not think me wanting in respect towards him, and I hope your Lordships will not think me wanting in respect to you, if I do not follow him in the able arguments which he has just placed before us. There are many persons in this House and elsewhere who will feel that there is much force in some of the arguments which the noble Lord has used, but I would rather leave it to the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council to make such answer to the noble Lord as he may think the noble Lord is entitled to.

I think no surprise can be felt that there should be some debate upon the Motion to go into Committee on the Education Bill, because some time has elapsed since the Bill was last before your Lordships, and it may be convenient that some of the most important points should be brought again clearly before the House. In what I may call the smoke of the artillery of the religious controversy many points seem to me to have been overlooked which deserve the attention of your Lordships as administrators and as legislators. I am anxious that it should be fully understood, both by our opponents and by the great public outside, that this Bill cannot simply be debated as a question between the Church and Dissent, and I protest in the strongest degree against the view which has been too generally expressed out of doors that in this House are to be found simply defenders of the Church. We sit here as legislators and not as Churchmen. Because we oppose this Bill, and intend to do what we can to amend it, we are not going to be branded as sectarians or sacerdotalists, or by any of the other epithets which have been so lavishly bestowed upon us outside.

There are questions outside the theological controversy, to some of which I am anxious to call the attention of your Lordships. As I have said, we have to consider this Bill, and to amend it if possible, not only in regard to the education given in Church schools, but also in regard to the education which is given in provided schools. If it is claimed that in deference to fervent Nonconformity a revolution is to take place in all the voluntary schools of the country, surely it is not too much for us to claim as legislators that we should look at the whole area of the education of the country and at what is being done in the provided schools as well as in the voluntary schools. The provided schools cannot claim that in what is to be a national settlement, in what is put forward as a great measure, they are to be exempt from criticism or amendment. This great body of schools, with which the voluntary schools are to be incorporated, cannot claim to be free from the hand of Parliament. Let it be therefore understood that this Bill extends beyond the voluntary schools; it is a Bill dealing also with provided schools, and it deals, further, with many matters not only touching voluntary schools and provided schools, but other educational questions in the country.

The verdict of the country is in the main against secularism. The country has pronounced against secularism, and I believe the great bulk of noble Lords opposite and the great bulk of the Members of the other House are against secularism. Therefore Anglicans, Nonconformists, and all denominations may unite and be prepared to make some sacrifice to resist this danger of secularism. My personal opinion is certainly this, that we must carry such Amendments as may be necessary in the Bill, that we must not limit them to the voluntary schools, but must take a survey of the whole of the schools of the country, and see that such arrangements are made that secularism shall not invade any class of schools. Surely noble Lords opposite will be with us in this, that if it should be proved—I do not say it can—that in provided schools there is an increasing tendency towards secularism, precautions should be taken, while we are engaged in this great controversy, that such a thing may not occur.

I will not trouble your Lordships with observations upon many of the extremely important questions in the Bill. I will not touch upon the question of trusts, except to say that it does appear to me extraordinary that the most recent trusts are not spared. Even trusts established within the last three or four years are to be dealt with without any deference to the wishes of those who have created them. In my own neighbourhood a beloved vicar died, and his parishioners wished to erect a memorial. What form did that memorial take? It took the form of a Church school, and that school was erected by the late vicar's parishioners as a memorial to him and to his Church work. Now that school is to be taken away and its religious character destroyed, and after two or three years the memorial to the vicar is to be swept away.

I will say nothing upon the important question of the compulsory attendance of children except this, that if a concession is made, as I am sure it will be, in that respect, it will not be a concession simply to the Church; it will be a concession to many religiously-minded people outside the Church. There is a general desire that the children should be compelled to attend, and therefore if there is ever to be a debit and credit struck I should not count that as a concession. I will not touch upon the question of the prohibition of teachers to give religious instruction except to say this, that there appeared to me to be among the speakers on the Government side in the House of Commons a considerable belief that it could be arranged that the teachers should be able to teach without infringing the great principle involved in the imposition of tests. I hope that something will be done in that direction. Nor will I speak of the four-fifths clause and the special facilities of all kinds, except to call attention to a shabby addition to the special facilities clause. It was introduced, I think, on Report after some concession had been made, and it is to the effect that where these facilities are given no rent is to be charged for the use of the schoolhouse by the local authority. I call that a shabby little addition to make to an important clause. If there is justice in the clause, why impose this penalty? I wish that these facilities had been given with more cordiality. Then there is the question as to what rent is to be paid. All these are important questions which will no doubt be dealt with, possibly to-night, but certainly in Committee.

I desire to-night to call special attention to some of the distinct administrative effects of Clause 1. I do not know whether the Government have congratulated their draughtsman upon its wording, but I think that the form chosen will involve them in more endless confusion than they could possibly have foreseen. What is the form of that clause? The clause provides that—"No school shall be recognised as a public elementary school unless it is a provided school." The clause will work out in this way—

"No voluntary school shall continue to exist unless the local authority chooses that it shall exist." That is the full effect of the clause. Clause 1 establishes public control, and I hope that in its working that control will be real and not bureaucratic; that power will not be centred in a few men at a great distance, who will manage the schools without popular local control.

Public control is not always popular control. The country has insisted upon public control. Let that be accepted. For my part I accept it to the full. It is the decision of the country. Accepting public control as the will of the nation, it seems to be assumed that the form of control in the Bill is the only form of control that could be given. You might have changed the boards of management. In place of the four foundation managers and the two elected managers you might have had three and three, or you might have appointed the whole of the managers, and in that way give full public control. Besides that, you might have applied to the voluntary schools some of the same clauses as have been applied to provided schools, and they might have continued, not as voluntary schools, but as a separate class, if you like, of provided schools. But, instead of that, the alternatives of incorporation or extinction are presented. That is the choice that is given them. Very well, then, what follows? You make the school a provided school. Do you not by that immensely strengthen our contention that we are to deal with provided schools as well as voluntary schools? You yourselves choose to call them provided schools. Well, then, we shall claim to deal with the whole class of provided schools. We shall not consent that the transferred schools, the transformed schools, or whatever title you are going to give them, are to remain a separate entity grouped inside the provided schools but not of them. I say, therefore, that by the form you have chosen you have strengthened our claim.

Why have you chosen this form? It is possibly for the sake of uniformity and in order to have one class of school only—the provided school. But the uniformity thus secured is no real uniformity, because you will continue to have four if not five different classes of schools, and this is a uniformity for which you sacrifice the form of Clause 1 and put it in a way which will land you in great confusion with your sub-divisions of provided schools. What schools will remain? There will be the old orthodox provided schools; there will be the modified, transformed, transferred, ordinary facilities provided schools; there will be the four-fifths facilities provided schools; and there will be the State-aided schools. I believe there may be another class of schools constituted under Clause 9 by some appeal to the Commission. You will have all these various classes. Where, then, is the national system and the uniformity for which sacrifices are to be made and the whole system of education revolutionised?

It is a curious thing that in the whole of this long Bill there is only one mention of foundation managers, except in the small print of the schedule, and but for a reference to an obscure corner of the schedule you would not know what had become of the existing managers. I am a humble foundation manager of a rural school myself, and I searched the Bill to see where I stood. The foundation managers are to have nothing to say in any of the arguments and arrangements of the local authorities. They are out of it. No account whatever is taken of the foundation managers or the subscribers; the men who have devoted themselves to the development of the schools are not even to be consulted. Urban and rural schools are to be dealt with separately. In the urban schools the local authorities may, if they think fit, appoint managers. Will they do so? In all cases they do not. I believe that in one instance in the East End of London a borough council has given notice to quit to the foundation managers who had brought up the school to an extremely high state of efficiency, and the local authority will deal with it themselves. I ask noble Lords who are familiar with local administration, Is it desirable to place too much in the hands of the civic authority as compared with the school authority, and will that authority be as competent to conduct management as a local body which has been long in touch with the parents and children in the locality?

I turn to the rural schools. In rural schools the existing foundation managers are to be swept away and new managers will take their place. It is highly probable that a great many of the persons who will compose the new boards will be those who composed the old boards. But has the interregnum been considered by His Majesty's Government? It will be more than a year before the new managers will be appointed, and before we, the existing managers, die. During that time who are to be responsible for the expenses of structural repairs? Suppose a roof falls in. Who is to pay for it? Are the old managers to go round and collect subscriptions from the parishioners, from denominationalists, for repairs of schools that are to be handed over to a local authority, without any indemnity or consideration given in respect of such expenses? Your Lordships would not be entitled to move an Amendment providing that in such a case the local authority would be bound to make good the expense incurred, but I think it is a matter which I may fairly recommend to the notice of His Majesty's Government.

With reference to the management of rural schools, the question of the appointment and dismissal of teachers is of the greatest interest, together with the powers to be given or taken away. One of the powers which is incidentally taken away from the local managers by Clause 1, without anybody having apparently noticed it or mentioned it, is the power of appointing and dismissing teachers. At present, subject to certain assent, they have the exclusive right of appointing and dismissing teachers, but by the school becoming a provided school that power is indirectly taken away. What I ask is, Are the local authorities to have all the power of appointing and dismissing teachers without any kind of reference to the local managers or the parents or anyone else? That is a dangerous power, especially when, as often happens in the country, the local authorities do no know the special needs of a particular school. What influence will the managers have over a master so appointed? I will assume that in many cases, overworked as they are, the local education authorities put their backs into this question and do their utmost to provide the best masters. What is the position of the managers in regard to those masters? What influence are the managers to have over a master so appointed? He is the servant of the local authority, to whom they have nothing whatever to say. Excellent and talented as are the great body of teachers they have a powerful organisation—the National Union of Teachers—of which account must be taken. That organisation will suffer little interference from the local managers.

In the very interesting and somewhat obscure clause in which delegation is proposed the selection of the headmaster is reserved. Why are the smaller authorities to be deprived of this power so intimately affecting the government of the schools? I trust that an Amendment will be inserted on this point. There are a number of other duties which the managers ought to be able to perform and for which some control over the master is almost necessary. The master is not only to teach. There are matters of ventilation and sanitation, questions of the manners of the children, and the question of whether they are ruled with a kindly or a cruel hand. In all these matters it is the men on the spot who ought to be able to deal with the master and control him. I do not say that they should have complete control, but they should have at all events some control. I know a case myself where the head teacher told the correspondent of the foundation managers on a question of ventilation that he had better mind his own business. That is the attitude which may be taken up generally in a great many schools.

Why are the managers restricted in so many matters of administration over which they ought to have control? I believe the motive is suspicion of the parson. It is believed that local management leads to parsonic influence. That is the reason why there is reluctance to give powers to local managers. It is thought that the one idea of parsons in the country is to proselytise. That is a travesty of the truth. It is an absurdity. That the parsons rightly take a great interest in the schools is the fact, and I trust it always will be the fact, and I hope that in the arrangements that will be made there will be no suspicion of him. It is said that the Act of 1902 placed additional power in the hands of the parson. As a matter of fact, the parson was dethroned by the Act of 1902, which put an end to what was described as one-man administration. I will give my own case. On my board of managers there is a parson who acts as correspondent, there is myself, and there are the local butcher, the owner of the village shop, and two farmers. Two of the managers have children in the school; they know every child who attends the school and they take an interest in it. The Government need not be afraid of the parson. He has already been checked in that way, if check were necessary. I was asked the question, "Shall we parsons not be swept away?" I replied, "Certainly not. When the new foundation managers are formed, the local authorities at a distance will have to come to you and ask you to be on the board because you will probably be the only man who can thread his way through the endless labyrinthian intricacies of the Code and act as correspondent."

Noble Lords may not know the enormous labour which is put upon the correspondent of a local school; this labour is undertaken frequently by the parson, and I think it would be very difficult in many cases to have it done without his assistance. Those of your Lordships who have schools of your own will recognise that these questions of administration cannot be brushed aside, and we would do well in this House not to allow ourselves to be carried away by theological controversy and omit from our purview questions which I maintain will deeply affect the education of rural England in the future.

I now leave the position of the rural schools and come to the general position in which the voluntary schools will find themselves when the Bill becomes an Act and they are taken over; and here I return to a point on which I but slightly touched at the commencement of my remarks, namely, whether they will be taken over by the local authorities or not and what their position will be. I said it was either incorporation or extinction. If they are not taken over what is their position? We know that they will get neither State-aid nor rate-aid. They will be absolutely in the hands of the local authority. Therefore the Bill must be very narrowly scrutinised with a view of deciding whether they are likely to be taken over. I believe that in a great many counties they will be taken over by wise county councils, which will make as generous terms with them as possible. I have no fear whatever of the general attitude towards them in that case.

But in towns the position is different. I have heard it said that in towns the temptation to take them over would be so strong that they are certain to be taken over, because otherwise new schools would have to be built. But there is a real danger that in small towns municipal ambition and particular views of what constitutes good administration will prompt the councils to decline to take over many schools, although they are structurally fit and perfectly adequate for the purpose for which they were built. At present there is no power to compel the councils to take over the schools. It is perfectly open to them to decide whether they will take them over or not. A town council might say, "Here we have ten schools and ten headmasters and a great many assistant teachers. We will, by grouping the schools, dismissing a great proportion of unnecessary staff, and getting the schools together under two or three headmasters, save the money to pay the interest on the schools we are going to build." That is a contingency which has got to be faced, and in such a case a whole number of voluntary schools might disappear, and disappear not on account of any hostility to the Church or cantankerousness on the part of the local authorities, but because they have different views as to administration. I believe, my Lords, that you cannot resist the argument that power must be given in the Bill to compel the local authorities to take over schools structurally fit. If you do not see to that voluntary schools will be entirely at the mercy of the local authorities and they may then vanish wholesale.

Every loophole left to the local authorities to force the voluntary schools into their hands strengthens the case that in the provided schools care must be taken to secure facilities for religious instruction. I am sure that a great portion of the people of the country would never stand the unfairness of meting out to Church people a different measure of justice from that given to Nonconformists, who are content with the Cowper-Temple Clause. If, as is certain under the Bill, a vast number of Church children are forced into the provided schools, it is our bounden duty to see that the religious instruction given to them in provided schools is adequate to their needs and meets the just expectations of the parents. It has been said over and over again that Cowper-Temple teaching ought to satisfy the parents. But it does not satisfy the vast number of Churchmen, and, that being so, why should something that they are not satisfied with be forced upon them? This is a comparatively small point, but as showing the absurdity of your system of provided schools embracing a number of schools under different management, you may have as a provided school a school which has ordinary facilities on two days in the week. What is the local authority going to serve out to that school in the way of religious instruction during the remaining three days? Are they to have three days of Cowper-Templeism patched on to two days of denominationalism? I do not think that has received any consideration at all, and it strengthens my argument that you must get uniformity in the provided schools.

I have no objection myself to a great deal of the Cowper-Temple teaching. The Return which was moved for by the most rev. Primate, and which is before the House, shows what is done under the Cowper-Temple Clause, the pains taken and the intelligence put into the syllabus by the local authorities in many cases. But it also shows the carelessness of other local authorities. There are in the Return sad pages which tell you that there are a number of schools in which no religious instruction at all is given. There are a great many others where there is no inspection and where no authority at all over religious instruction exists. Much of the Cowper-Temple teaching is good, but at the same time there is a great deal of it that is bad and tending almost to secularism. There are cases in which the word Christian is struck out, and where the Apostles' Creed is not taught.

So little in my public life have I been what is called a sacerdotalist or narrow-minded sectarian that I took a great part in opening the Universities to Dissenters in former days. I hope, therefore, that I shall not be suspected of being prejudiced if I denounce this Bill in many of its provisions. I was a party to the Act of 1870, but that was an Act to supplement and not to supplant the voluntary school system. Now we have a Bill which is to supplant the voluntary schools. We have to look the matter carefully in the face and to see that, while we are supplanting the voluntary schools and making them into provided schools, the provided schools shall be of such a character that Church children can be sent to them with confidence and without fear of their being trained less religiously than hitherto.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I think the House on both sides will feel that the noble Viscount who has just sat down has earned our gratitude for calling attention to a part of this great subject which has often been overlooked. I share, I am afraid, nearly all the apprehensions to which the noble Viscount has given expression. The peril is grave and the apprehensions are widespread that the result of this Bill if passed into law as it stands, notwithstanding some amendment, may be to substitute a bureaucratic system of control—not from headquarters in London, but from headquarters in county towns—over schools which have hitherto been able to secure for their practical working and government the best attention of the picked men of a neighbourhood. The system proposed will certainly not evoke the same enthusiasm on the part of the local managers as the present system. That danger is already apparent under the existing law, and is likely to be aggravated very greatly by the Bill. The fault does not lie with the efficient and capable men who, on behalf of the county councils, are called upon to do the work. The fault lies with the system, which has a tendency to withdraw these matters from those on whose shoulders local responsibility ought to lie and to place it on the shoulders of men who have not, at all events, the same local interest and enthusiasm.

My Lords, we feel grave difficulty in undertaking the task of making Amendments to this Bill, but we mean to try. Of this I am certain, that we could do no worse service to the Government than to allow the Bill to become law as it stands. I am convinced that in a few months' time those who were called upon to administer the law under this Bill would be forcing their representatives in both Houses to move for administrative changes which would be absolutely necessary if the work of education throughout the country is to be carried forward as it should be. Therefore, amendment of some kind is necessary, if only on administrative grounds. But apart from that we are strengthened in the responsibility of amending the Bill by the nature—I say the nature deliberately rather than the number—of the petitions that have come to us on this subject. I presented to your Lordships to-night 475 petitions from different parishes, with 60,298 signatures, and, if any one of your Lordships will examine them, he will be struck, I am certain, by the kind of persons who sign them and by the contrast they present to petitions sometimes presented to both Houses of Parliament, got up by societies for partisan purposes.

In addition to the petitions I have presented to-night there have been, I think, 485 petitions already sent in, and to them I believe I may apply the same description as I have applied to those I have been able more carefully to examine myself. But, apart from that, I desire to call particular attention to a petition presented to-night by me from trustees, the men on whom lies the responsibility of trusteeship for the elementary schools in this country to-day. I have presented to-night one portion of a petition, the rest of which is I know on its way to me, from 137 schools in one diocese alone, the trustees of which distinctly come to your Lordships with this request. What they say is virtually this—

> "We want to go on discharging in such measure as may be possible, the responsibilities that have been laid on our shoulders."

and they ask (to quote their own words) that they be not—

> "Forbidden to discharge their responsibilities as trustees."

As I have said before, I do not regard trusteeships of that sort as in all their details of so sacrosanct a character that, when need calls for it, Parliament ought not to be able to make the alterations that are necessary, especially when such alterations are desired by the trustees themselves. But the conditions preliminary to making these alterations must surely be, if the trust be a modern one, either that of real necessity or of proved misdemeanour or wrong-doing in the discharge of the trust. Now so far as I am aware there has been no endeavour whatever to show that this change is either in the strict sense of the word necessary, or that there has been any failure to discharge aright the trust imposed upon those men in the period during which they held the trust. As the noble Viscount has reminded your Lordships, many of the trusts are of quite modern date, within the last few years, drawn and discharged by living men, and quite obviously these trusts ought to be interfered with as little as possible, and certainly as cautiously as possible. A petition such as that seems to me to be entitled to far more than merely the ordinary consideration given to such documents when they are handed in, as they are sometimes, wholesale, because it is the deliberate request of men who are puzzled by finding themselves face to face with the probable inability to discharge the trust which they have deliberately undertaken, while at the same time they are ready to go on discharging it, and up to this time have done so in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

Our further need for going into Committee and amending this Bill is that a great part of it has never been explained to us at all. There are clauses in this Bill the purport of which I, who have necessarily given a good deal of attention to this subject, certainly do not at present understand at all, and so far as I am aware nobody else does either. The authors of the clauses, perhaps, understand them, but circumstances—I will not put it any stronger than that—have rendered it impossible to explain elsewhere what is the way in which one or other such particular clause is to operate.

I believe we are face to face now with a difficulty which is not entirely novel, but which is at all events unexampled on the scale on which it now arises. It is quite true to say that in the legislation of some years ago there were clauses closured, or guillotined, or which, owing to circumstances in the other House, were not much explained or adequately discussed; but I think I am right in saying that there was not one of such clauses which was not capable of receiving, and which did not receive in this House the full, adequate, and effective discussion which it had not been possible, from whatever reason, to give to it in the other House. But the clauses of this Bill upon which that fate has fallen are the clauses which deal with finance; and I look forward with some anxiety, as do many in the country, to the exposition which may some day have to be given byHis Majesty's advisers, because it is the fact that it is now proposed to enact as part of the Statute law of England a series of clauses which were guillotined without discussion in the other House, and will be ruled out of discussion in this House on the ground of privilege, and will then go to the world as clauses which have been agreed upon after full deliberation by the Commons as well as the Lords.

It does seem to me a grave and serious difficulty, quite apart from the question of what the clauses themselves contain, that there are, indisputably as far as I can understand, large portions of this Bill, which it would, in accordance with the ordinary rule, be impossible for your Lordships, I will not say to discuss, but to discuss with such effectiveness as results in amendment. And if it be true that part of those are clauses which we do not understand—which were not explained in the House of Commons—I say constitutionally that is a very grave aspect in the history of what we are trying to do. Take, for example, the clause which deals with the expenditure of a million of money. Does anybody know what is to be done with the money? We are told it is to be in the discretion of the Board of Education. The Board, one would suppose, would be able to give some indication of the sort of way in which it is to be expended, but at present there is literally none whatever. The only explanation was that a portion of it would be expended for the payment of the Commissioners who were to serve under the Act—that was given by the Minister for Education in the other House—but his attention having been called to the facts, he was obliged to say that this was an entire mistake, that money could not be given under the clause to that particular purpose, and that funds would have to be supplied for that particular purpose from elsewhere.

Then with regard to rent, which we have again and again been reminded inside and outside of Parliament, especially outside, is the way in which compensation is to be given to us, or the way in which things are to be made straight for us where difficulties exist; we have had, as far as I know, not a hint as to the probable way in which that is to be assessed, or anything to guide us as to what we are to expect, as to the manner in which that solatium, if it be one, is to be afforded to us.

But there are other clauses which were explained for the most part before they were actually introduced into the other House, or at all events before discussion took place, clauses which I would ask your Lordships to compare with the explanations thus given in order to see how far the promises made correspond with the text of the clauses as they now stand in the Bill..

Here is one example of what I mean. When the important Clause 4 with its extended facilities was first foreshadowed, there was a deputation from denominational managers, their representatives, and friends, to the Minister for Education to ask him how they were to secure that under such a clause a teacher would be likely to be appointed who was in sympathy with the objects of the school, and who would give the old spirit and tone to the school under the new conditions. The answer given, in part, was this—

> "Clause 4 may require strengthening, but the intention of the clause really is that the schools which come within its conditions should be carried on just as they are now. That is the plain English intention of the clause . . . . The intention of the clause certainly is that the teachers should remain the same as they are; those who are most qualified to give the particular religious instruction which hitherto has been given in the school."

Now there are two meanings to the word "intention." It may mean the pious hope of those who framed this clause, and I have not a doubt that it was and is the pious hope of the framers that that will be the result. But there is no difficulty in making that hope into an assurance by putting something down which will show that that intention is going to be practically carried out by the provisions of the Bill. It seems to me that, unless the intention is to pass from the region of pious hope into the region of fact, it is one of those things which, however well-intentioned, are calculated to have, or to have had, an extremely deceptive effect, because that is the kind of statement which allayed the anxieties of those who were troubled or distressed about this matter. They were referred to that statement, and told that that was what is going to happen, when they entertained fears that the local authority might appoint anybody they liked to take charge of a school of that character. That does seem to me to be one of those explanations given beforehand which we have a right to have embodied in the Bill as presented to us.

Another case. There was the further question about the teacher giving the religious teaching, and in the House of Commons before that clause was passed, questions were asked, and pressure brought to bear, as to the method by which it would be in any way secured that the teacher giving the religious instruction should be a suitable person to do so.

The Answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary, speaking on behalf of the Government, was—

> "The first question was, whether it would be a matter of contract between the local authority and the teacher they were employing to give this religious instruction. It would; and they would see that they got a good teacher . . . . The third question was—Supposing a teacher had been employed to give this religious teaching, and a contract was made, and after that the teacher changed his mind and would not give the teaching, what would the local authority do? Well, they would get rid of him, and they would get a man who would fulfil his contract."

Nothing could be clearer—I will not say more satisfactory, because I do not think it was. But when we turn to the Bill, the provision is not there. Explanations of that kind, which went far to allay anxiety are not found embodied in the Bill as actually presented to us.

The Bill comes to your Lordships with that kind of introduction and explanation on the part of the promoters, but its contents show nothing of the sort. Therefore I feel we have a justification for saying not merely that we ought to amend the Bill, but that we ought really to look for Amendments of that kind to come from the Government Bench. Those declarations, as I have said, had an enormous effect in allaying anxiety, and, unless they are to be regarded as worthless, we have the right to ask that the Bill, before it leaves your Lordships' House—I would venture to hope before its clauses are actually proposed from the Government Bench—should correspond with the kind of descriptions which were given when it was explained in the House of Commons. I have not seen the Amendments which his Majesty's Government are going to propose on these clauses. I look forward with the keenest interest to their introduction, because I cannot suppose for a moment that they will not answer to the description I have given.

Then, again, the statement was made again and again as to the facilities that were proposed in the Bill being practically compulsory. They are not practically compulsory at all. The local education authority may refuse to take over a school at all if they so inclined. Those of your Lordships who are familiar with the facts in the northern towns of England—and perhaps in some southern towns—know that, whether it was due to the municipal rivalry to which the noble Viscount referred or to some other cause, there is place after place where the school boards have overbuilt themselves, and where there is now abundant vacant space in their schools. Now it may frequently happen that in the immediate neighbourhood of such schools there may stand a small Church school, admirable in its character, which was built by the self-sacrifice of those who preferred to send their children where they might receive the religious instruction they desired for them. There is, as far as I understand, absolutely nothing to prevent the local authority from saying : "We do not intend to take over that school. We intend simply to take the children into our school, where there is plenty of room,"

Is that what the country intended when they voted for such general changes as are said to have been authorised by the late General Election ? I do not think that was the kind of thing contemplated or intended. Nay, further, I do not think that that was contemplated or desired by the promoters of the Bill; but intentions are one thing and the wording of the Bill is another. We must have the thing put straight, and in black and white, if the intentions of which we have heard a good deal are to be made effective. It is not enough for it to be said : "Certainly, they can do that if they like, but Mr, Birrell hopes they will not." That is really what we are thrown back upon, and against that I feel we have a right to object. A great deal has been said, and rightly said, of Clause 4 and the provisions which it contains for the recognition, in its proper place, of the denominational element in our educational system. We have heard again and again, when we have pointed out the difficulties of such schools as I referred to just now, that they would come under Clause 4. I hope they will, but I do not see the slightest reason for saying that they must, and I see nothing in the Bill that will give any power to those who are responsible for those schools necessarily to bring them under it.

Everything depends on the local authority's will and wish in the matter. I believe as fully as any of your Lordships in the desire and power of most of the local education authorities throughout the country to deal fairly and justly in this matter. We owe a debt to our local authorities, and I should be the last to say that they would be likely in ordinary cases to make a mess of this matter. But everybody who has looked into the facts of the last six months knows that there are local education authorities who have an animus or prejudice in this matter, and it is not improbable that, after the elections which will now take place, when controversy is keen on this subject, there may be more local authorities acting with animus or bitterness than there are to-day. We have a right, therefore, to ask Parliament to make such provision as shall secure those whom we want to protect from the possible unfairness on a huge and most disastrous scale of a local education authority which happens not to take a large-minded or fair view of this matter.

It is perfectly possible in the case of Clause 4 schools for the local education authority, subject to an appeal, which I think I can show is somewhat visionary, to make conditions of requirement for coming under the clause such as it is impossible for the school to comply with. I am not going into that now ; but when the time comes I think I shall be able to show that so cumbrous and so complicated are the conditions that have to be met before a school can get the extended facilities that the clause will require a great deal of amendment before it can carry out the intentions, the perfectly honest and clear intentions, as I believe, of those who have proposed this arrangement. These are points, quite easy to multiply, on which the Bill needs to be amended to bring it into harmony with the genuine promises and declarations that have been made by its promoters.

There are besides a large number of perfectly general statements that have been made by members of the Government, both in the House of Commons and outside its walls, of the desire of the Government that the religious spirit, the religious teaching of an elementary kind, shall go on in all the schools of the country, that no confiscation or anything approaching it shall take place, but that all shall be absolutely fair, even to minorities, whom we are told must always suffer, and further, that the denominational idea shall, within its proper place and within the purview of this Bill, be maintained. But to give real effect to those declarations it is absolutely certain that large, definite, and clear Amendments must be proposed. Some of them, I hope, will come from the Government, and, if not they must come from other quarters of the House.

We on the Episcopal Bench shall undoubtedly propose some such Amendments, and shall be prepared to support others of which notice has already been given, and which seem to give effect to what we believe to be right principles. What I desire to emphasise beforehand is that these Amendments, which I for one—I must only speak for myself—shall either propose or support, are coherent with one another, part of a definite scheme, and that they are not in any sense what can be called wrecking Amendments of a mischievous kind. They are not meant, as some Amendments are sometimes meant, to knock a hole into the bottom of the Bill so that it may sink. That is not my plan or purpose or idea in the Amendments for which I am either wholly responsible or am going to support. They are, on the contrary, Amendments designed to carry out with such fairness as is practicable and possible within the limits of the Bill the principles which we believe to be sound and right in this matter. They are meant either to give effect to the distinct declarations which the Government have made and which, as I think, they have failed to give effect to in this Bill, or else to do what is palpably and admittedly fair and just and right all round.

In my speech on the Second Reading of the Bill I laid down three or four large principles for which we feel absolutely bound to contend. We think that something must be definitely said which shall secure that in regard to all the schools of the country we may not merely hope that they shall not be secularised, but that secularised they cannot be. I am certain that this is in accord with the feelings of the country, and I can see no reason at all why such a provision, if you like rather as a demonstration than as a possibility of enforcement in all its details, should not stand in the forefront of the Bill as something which is giving effect to the repeated declarations that the Bill is not to have, and is not intended to have, a secularising character at all.

We further feel that the teaching of elementary religion in our schools must, wherever possible, be given by teachers qualified and trained for that purpose, teachers who, in a literal sense, mean what they say. I have no sort of wish, nor have those who propose Amendments of that class, to reimpose what can be described as denominational tests upon Civil Servants as such, and it is absolutely misleading to put it in that way. We have no desire to impose on Civil Servants, as such, tests either denominational or even religious in their character. I am most eager to protect the conscientious men who shrink, to their honour be it said, from any action which would seem like endeavouring to obtain promotion in their profession by saying they believe something they do not believe. Those men are entitled to the highest honour and respect, and we ought to do all that is reasonable and proper to safeguard those men's interests.

But, while we have every desire to help and to protect and safeguard from loss, as far as we may, the honest and often highly religious-minded men who take that view, we feel that it should be made a practical impossibility for education authorities to impose the duty of giving religious teaching upon people about whose qualification to give such teaching they have no power to make inquiry. We must render it absolutely clear that any local education authority which laid down a rule that no inquiry should be permissible as to the qualifications of the man part of whose duty it is to give religious teaching would be acting in a way contrary to the provisions of the Bill. What we desire to do is to make it perfectly easy for the honest and conscientious men to withdraw from the giving of that religious teaching, and, on the other hand, to secure that the local education authority shall make such inquiry as may be thought necessary as regards the person to whom that special and most difficult and responsible duty is given by the authority. And we must protest against any endeavour to muzzle and silence by force, by positive enactment, the teachers in those schools where denominational teaching is, by the Bill, going to be given, who are eager to give it, who have been trained specially to give it, and who can give it without interfering in the least with the ordinary work or discipline of the school. To say that such men and women as those are to be compulsorily silenced from doing that which they are specially qualified and have been specially trained to do seems to me to be simple tyranny, and that tyranny I, for one, intend to resist.

The next point is that definite religious teaching must be accessible wherever possible to those children whose parents desire it for them. The Minister for Education has more than once said words like those—

> "I have secured access to undenominational teaching everywhere for children of Nonconformists."

That is perfectly right. I am very glad he has done so; I desire to support it in every possible way, and I think it is the very thing we desire to see embodied, if possible, in the provisions of an Act of Parliament. We welcome and will support it in every way. But we must ask for a corresponding right on the other side, that those who desire denominational teaching for their children shall also have access to that teaching in all parts of the country. One limb seems to require the other limb if the corporate body is to stand; and that is one of the Amendments which will be required to make this a satisfactory provision. We must ask for some further recognition in this Bill of the work of those who have with infinite self-sacrifice, care, and devotion built up denominational schools in our great towns alongside the board schools for those who desire their children to receive that kind of religious teaching rather than the other. Unless you are going to belie all that has been said about confiscation you must recognise the output of money as well as the devotion, which is of more value, which has been bestowed upon these schools during recent years. We must make it impossible for the local education authorities to render these gifts inoperative. To do less than that would be, as it seems to me, to belie every principle of public honour to which we have been pledged in the story of Parliamentary government.

*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*

In dealing with this Bill we have a difficult and dispiriting task. I think the position in which this House stands is something like the position of a great consulting surgeon or doctor to whom a patient has been brought after he has been handled by other practitioners in different conditions elsewhere—a patient, for instance who has been treated on the battlefield in the midst of noise and strife and difficulty, which rendered the quiet treatment which he ought to have had impossible. With delicate organs shattered or wounded, with limbs perhaps broken and twisted, the patient is brought to another authority, to a quieter atmosphere, and in different surroundings to have himself attended to and, if possible, set straight. The task imposed upon such a consulting surgeon or physician is a very difficult one. He can only make the best of a bad job. He will not, when he has done, be able to say the thing is satisfactorily done or that the medical treatment which the patient has received is the medical treatment which he ought to have had all through. It will not be a triumphant result. All he can do is to make the best of a somewhat bad business. The proposals which this Bill contains are not ours now, and they will not be ours when we have amended them. We cannot regard them, even when amended, as those for which we are to take full responsibility. We do as well as we can to amend what seems to us to be gravely amiss with the measure which comes to us. Unless some such Amendments are made we shall consider what steps we ought finally to take when the moment for such consideration arises. We all remember Wordsworth's poem about

> "The maid whom there were none to praise,
> And very few to love."

I think that is the position in which the Bill stands at the present moment. I hear of none who praise it except somewhat superficially, and I hear of no one who pretends to love the Bill as it at present stands. But we will do our best to bring it into conformity with common fairness and practicable workableness, and with the promises—I lay stress on that—and undertakings of the Government.

I apologise for detaining your Lordships twice as long as I meant to, but I desire to say one concluding word. The Bishops who sit in this House are sometimes represented as sitting here with the duty upon them, so to speak, of fighting for our own hand and doing what is desirable simply in the interests of the Church. So far as I am concerned, and I am certain I speak for others, that is very far from my thoughts upon an evening such as this. I have no right, perhaps, to speak for others; but for myself I hold my place in this House, as I consider, not primarily for the protection of Church interests, but primarily for setting forward as much as in me lies the social, moral, and religious welfare of the English people. I am thinking not of Church children in Church schools, or of Church children in board schools, but of all the little children in the elementary schools of England, and of our desire that Christian training should be secured for them in the best way that it possibly can be. Ours is the widest outlook, with as I believe, the widest possibilities and results. I am looking far beyond the interests of our Church, dearly as I cherish them, absolutely as I desire to protect them.

We do not have in this House—I wish we had—the presence of the leaders of the Nonconformist ministry. No one would welcome them more cordially within these walls than I should. But in their absence I should like to feel that we can in some degree discharge on their behalf the responsibilities for which, as Christian men, they care most. Like us they have at heart primarily and in the main the religious upbringing of the children of the English people, and I should like to think that they had entrusted to us to some extent the fighting of their battle. We are trying to fight for them to the uttermost. We want to go forward not for promoting the interests either of Church or of chapel as such, but with the single object that the little children entrusted to the schools may be Christianly as well as virtuously brought up. We are trying to set that forward. Such has been my aim ever since I have had the honour of a seat in your Lordships' House, and it is especially my aim and purpose now with regard to those children. It has been so from the first, and certainly it will continue to be my endeavour as long as I retain my place in the Parliament of the country.

*Lord EVERSLEY: My Lords, I feel very sorry to find myself in conflict with the noble Viscount who spoke last but one upon a Bill of this character. I cannot but recollect the many times in past years that we were shoulder to shoulder supporting measures of great importance and of a similar character affecting questions of religious equality. My noble friend has of late years fallen into other company, I will not say worse company, but he is no longer, it appears to me, actuated by the same enthusiasm which used to animate him in the past. He has changed considerably since the time when he fathered that important measure dealing with University tests. It seems to me that the Bill now before the House is very much of the same character as that which dealt with University tests. It provides the same security for the children of the poor as that Bill provided for the sons of the rich—namely, it provides that there shall be absolute religious equality in the schools between Nonconformists and Church people, and that there shall be no tests in respect of the teachers.

I listened with some interest to ascertain whether the noble Viscount really opposed the Bill or not, and his speech left me completely in doubt upon the subject. I could not but recollect the speech which was made not many weeks ago by the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition at Nottingham, a speech in which he said that the Unionist Party were not opposed to the principle of public control or to the principle of the abolition of tests, and that they did not intend to run Church against Chapel. By that last expression I assume he meant that the Unionist Party are in favour of absolute equality between Church people and Noncomformists, but I failed to follow whether the noble Viscount agreed with the noble Marquess, whether he really is in favour of the main principles of the Bill as defined by the noble Marquess, or whether he is not.

The noble Viscount occupied the greater part of his speech in dealing with important questions, but still they were questions of detail and not really vital to the principle of the Bill. He said a great deal about the managers of these transferred schools, and the inexpediency of centralising too much in the education authorities of the counties. I for my part am very much disposed to agree with him on that point. I think the tendency has been to centralise too much in the county authorities, but that is a defect which has been brought about mainly by the Act of 1902; and I think the noble Viscount failed to point out that there is a clause in this Bill which endeavours to minimise that and to reduce it greatly. I refer to the power given to local authorities to break up their areas into smaller districts with a view to not having such enormous areas to deal with. I hope for my part that great effect will be given to that clause.

Then, again, I did not quite understand whether my noble friend, who at the conclusion of his speech spoke of the extreme anxiety of Church parents for the religious education of their children, recognises what has been done by the Bill in that direction. And as so much confusion has arisen upon that point, and so many misrepresentations have been made in different parts of the country upon it, I hope the House will permit me to say a few words in explanation of the method adopted in the Bill of securing religious instruction. It is still stated in many places that the Bill absolutely fails to secure religious education to the children. That is an entire misapprehension. The Bill enables managers of schools which are about to be transferred to make it a condition of the transfer, in the first place, that there shall be undenominational education for all children in the school, and, in the second place, that there shall be doctrinal instruction in the transferred Church schools for the children of Church parents who desire it. It does seem to me that the clause gives full security that there shall be religious education in the future.

I have been told that many people are still under the impression that it will be entirely at the discretion of the local authority to what extent undenominational education shall be given. That is not so. I believe I am right in saying that it would be competent, when the managers transferred a Church school to the local authority, to make it a condition that a particular syllabus of undenominational education should be carried out, What I imagine will happen will be this. When the Bill is passed into law the bishop of the diocese in which the transferred school exists will advise the managers as to their power under this clause, and as to the particular religious syllabus which they ought to insist upon. That will be the case in every part of the country. That being so, it does seem to me that the securities given for religious education in the transferred schools is ample and complete.

Then my noble friend went on to speak of the desire of the parents for religious instruction for the children in the schools. I think myself that a good deal of exaggeration takes place on that point. I have no doubt whatever that the great bulk of parents in rural districts, and generally throughout the country, are in favour of religious instruction, but they do not desire, as a rule, doctrinal instruction. My own belief is that the great bulk of parents, especially in rural districts, are abundantly satisfied with undenominational education and with Bible teaching, and do not desire to have more specific doctrinal teaching for their children.

I may remind the House that a great change has taken place in this respect in late years. In my early days there was practically little doctrinal education in the elementary schools. Education, generally speaking, was undenominational. The schoolmasters then gave nearly the whole of the religious instruction, and it was only rarely that the clergy entered the school for that purpose. But a great change has taken place in late years, mainly owing, I think, to the influence of the High Church Party. Greater efforts have been made by the clergy for the purpose of enforcing doctrinal education. The result has been that the clergy as a rule, or certainly a majority of the clergy, enter the schools twice a week, and sometimes three times a week. for the purpose of giving doctrinal education. In this way the grievance of Nonconformists has been greatly intensified, because they find that their children cannot go to these Church schools without having to submit to being taught the doctrines of a religion in which they do not believe.

I think myself that the parents of Church children have also some reason to complain of what has taken place. In many parts of the country the clergy are of a very strenuous, conscientious, and active character, believing that Bible teaching alone is insufficient and even mischievous and injurious, and probably many of them agree with the noble Viscount opposite, Viscount Halifax, who in a recent speech at the Church Congress told his audience that in his opinion the principles of the Reformation ought to be repented of in tears and ashes. In my belief there are many Church parents who do not wish that their children shall be instructed by clergymen of this character, and who would willingly, if it were possible, withdraw their children from religious instruction of this kind. In my belief, protection for the children of Church people is almost as necessary as it is for the children of Noncomformists, and one great merit of this Bill is that it gives that protection. In future, although there will be undenominational education in the transferred Church schools for all, education of a special character in the doctrines of the Church will be given only to those children whose parents desire it, and therefore the parents of Church children who object to the doctrines which are taught by the clergymen in the school will have an opportunity of withdrawing their children from that instruction.

Turning now to the speech of the most rev. Primate, I congratulate him upon the general moderation and tone of it. It seemed to me to be a considerable advance upon his speech on the Second Reading. Much of the earlier part of his speech I could take no exception to. I do not think that we could find any fault with him for saying that those parts of the Bill which have not been discussed in the other House should be fully discussed in this House, or when he contends that any promises which have been made by the Government, and which in his view the Bill does not fully carry out, should be thoroughly examined and the Bill brought into harmony with them. But he went on, in the latter part of his speech, to propound certain alterations which he considered would be necessary, and they seemed to me to go very far beyond the general scope of the Bill, and to be of the character of the drastic Amendments which he promised us on the Second Reading.

I think there is no very great fear of drastic Amendments I look back upon legislation of the same kind for a great many years past, and I remember many cases in which drastic Amendments were inserted by your Lordships and were rejected by the other House, and when the Bills came back to this House those Amendments were not insisted upon. My belief is that the promise of drastic Amendments has often been used by sagacious and able Leaders of the House in order to induce their supporters not to divide against the Bill on Second Reading, and when the drastic Amendments are carried through this House and go back to the other House, and are there rejected, they are not insisted upon by your Lordships. The fact is, that whatever reasons there may be for not opposing a Bill on Second Reading they are equally good for not insisting upon drastic Amendments when they are sent back by the other House. I recollect a great number of measures passed by the House of Commons by large majorities, and affecting the Church especially, to which the whole Bench of Bishops were opposed, as originally introduced. Among them were such measures as those for the abolition of the Church Rate and University Tests, Irish Church Disestablishment and the reformation of the burial laws. The course of all those Bills has been the same. They were carried by enormous majorities in the House of Commons; they came up to this House, where the majority of noble Lords were very much against them, but they did not think it desirable to vote against the Second Reading. Drastic Amendments were inserted here, and the measures were returned to your Lordships' House by the House of Commons with the Amendments objected to, and the Bills eventually passed with little or no alteration.

But of all the measures which I have alluded to the one which is best worthy of the consideration of your Lordships was the measure for the Disestablishment of the Irish Church, for I think it presents a very complete analogy to the procedure in connection with the present Bill, and points out what is likely to occur at future stages of this Bill. Your Lordships will probably recollect that the measure for the Disestablishment of the Irish Church passed the House of Commons by an enormous majority. It had been the subject of an appeal to the country; it came up to this House backed by the verdict of the country and by an enormous majority in the House of Commons. Your Lordships had the previous year rejected by an overwhelming majority a measure of a suspensory character involving the same principle, and it was very well known that a great majority of your Lordships, including the whole of the occupants of the Episcopal Bench, were against the principle of that Bill.

The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Tait, who was a man of very wide statesmanship, probably the greatest statesman who has occupied the chair of St. Augustine in the last 200 years, made a speech on the Second Reading of the Bill. He spoke in terms of which I was very much reminded by the speech of the present Archbishop of Canterbury on the Second Reading of this Bill. He pointed out the grave objections to the Bill, but said he thought it would be more prudent on the part of their Lordships to read the Bill a second time. He promised, however, that there should be drastic Amendments in Committee. Those drastic Amendments were moved in Committee, and they converted the Bill into something very different from what it originally was. They incorporated the principle of concurrent endowment and saved a greater part of the temporalities of the Irish Church. The Bill then went back to the House of Commons and these Amendments were at once rejected, at the instance of Mr. Gladstone in a powerful speech, in which he spoke of your Lordships as living up in a balloon. I very well recollect the speech. The Bill came back again to the House of Lords, and at that stage a consultation took place between Lord Cairns, the Archbishop, and Lord Granville, and an arrangement was come to. I believe that arrangement was due to wise statesmanship on the part of the Archbishop and of the other men concerned, but the result of it all was that the measure passed with very small Amendments. The greater part of the drastic Amendments were withdrawn, and the Bill was formally agreed to very much as it had been originally introduced, with this exception, that one million more in money was saved for the Irish Church, which I think was a very small price paid for peace and quiet and for the settlement of a great question.

*Lord Eversley.*

Well, my Lords, I cannot but think that the course of events in connection with this Bill will be very much such as I have described in the case of the Irish Disestablishment Bill. Your Lordships have heard that drastic Amendments are likely to be moved. The Bishop of Manchester has published a series of Amendments which in his opinion ought to be carried, and he said of these drastic Amendments that he hoped the result would be the same as that of an overdose of chloroform, and that the Bill would receive its quietus in a very short time. I do not think that will be quite the character of the Amendments which will be moved by the Archbishop of Canterbury. At the same time, judging from his speech to-night and the speech he made on the Second Reading, they will be sufficiently wide, and I have not the smallest doubt that when the Bill goes back to the House of Commons those Amendments, if carried by your Lordships—and no doubt your Lordships will be able to carry what Amendments you like—will be rejected. Then will come the real point of the difficulty, namely, whether an arrangment can be arrived at between the Leaders of the two Parties. There will be, no doubt, a meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury, the noble Marquess who leads the Opposition, and one or two Ministers from this side of the House, and they will discuss whether an arrangement can be come to. It will then be seen what is the maximum which the one can give, and the minimum which the other will receive, and I hope it may be possible for an arrangement to be arrived at. For my part when that strenuous moment of settlement arrives I cannot believe that statesmen of the ability of the noble Marquess opposite and the Archbishop of Canterbury will be so unwise as to force their craft to windward against the heavy gale of public opinion. My belief is that the Bill will ultimately pass with some modicum of Amendment, and that it will be found after a time—as in the case of the other Bills to which I have referred affecting the Church, against which so much opposition was raised at the moment—that none of the prophecies of ruin to the Church of England will be realised. The Bill will not injure but will benefit the Church of England, because it will dissociate the Church from a system which in the minds of vast numbers of the people is connected with the sense of injury and wrong.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, the noble Lord who had just sat down, will, I am sure, not consider me guilty of any discourtesy if I do not follow him over the whole of his arguments with regard to the Act disestablishing the Irish Church, for I cannot see any analogy between the Irish Church question and that now before your Lordships. I feel that it is a great advantage that we should have this debate on the Motion to go into Committee. The importance of the present debate cannot be overrated, because the measure before us has not been adequately considered in another place. I doubt if there has ever been a Bill of such importance come up to your Lordships after such an inadequate discussion in the other House. The clauses not fully discussed in the other House, or not discussed at all, must be considered by your Lordships, and, if necessary, amended.

The more the Bill is examined the more, I am convinced, will your Lordships be impressed with the necessity of obtaining from members of His Majesty's Government fuller explanations than have been given in the other House, where there have been inconsistencies between the speeches in its support as well as in the clauses themselves. Therefore, I venture to say your Lordships are entering upon a most important duty, not only to yourselves but to the country, in insisting upon a full discussion of these various clauses. I attribute the confusion that has arisen to bad drafting and to the anomalies in the machinery.

I propose to-night to draw attention to some other inconsistencies and anomalies, and I hope I shall receive from noble Lords opposite some definite reply which will materially assist us in framing Amendments, which are exceedingly difficult to frame at present. In the first place, the clauses are not self-contained. The same subject matter is spread over different clauses of the Bill, and the rules of the other House have prevented their discussion in relation one to another. This was notably the case in regard to the facilities clauses, on which there has been no general discussion, Amendments to one being ruled out of order when they touched the subject matter of another towards which it was closely related. There were many vital points dealt with in Clauses 7 and 8 in connection with facilities which were not discussed in the House of Commons when the question was raised on Clause 3. The result of the clauses not being self-contained was that a general Amendment moved to Clause 3, dealing with facilities, was ruled out of order inasmuch as it could be considered at a later period when Clauses 7 and 8 were reached, but when Clauses 7 and 8 were taken the discussion was confined to the specific points raised in these clauses.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): May I ask the noble Marquess to what point in Clauses 7 and 8 he alludes? Clause 7 refers to compulsory attendance and Clause 8 to teachers. Perhaps the noble Marquess means Clauses 4 and 5?

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: No, I mean Clauses 7 and 8. There was no general discussion on the question of facilities, and therefore I would like to ask the noble Earl opposite to explain what the views of His Majesty's Government are with regard to facilities. Then I would like to ask how we are to reconcile the different opinions expressed by members of His Majesty's Government with regard to certain other details of the measure. When the Bill was introduced in the House of Commons it was claimed on behalf of the Government that they had at their back the mandate of the country. I have heard that statement also made in your Lordships' House, and while to a certain extent I do not deny it I should like to have an answer to one or two questions. I should like to ask, had His Majesty's Government any mandate from the country to introduce Clause 1, which abolishes at one fell swoop 14,000 denominational schools, which were built and endowed by their founders for the purpose of promoting denominational religious education? I venture to say they had not. I contend that the country does not expect these 14,000 schools to be abolished by Clause 1, and it will therefore be our duty to deal with this question when we reach it in Committee.

His Majesty's Government have declared that they received from the country a mandate for popular control and the abolition of tests for teachers. I am not prepared to say that there was not a certain kind of mandate on the question of popular control, and, perhaps, for the abolition of tests for teachers; but if they had a mandate on those points, why have they not carried it out? Mr. Asquith, speaking on 10th May, declared that as regards the education question the remedy for the grievances was to be found, in the opinion of the majority of the electors—

> "In the adoption of the two principles which are called popular control and the abolition of tests."

I do not in the least challenge that statement, but on the Second Reading of the Bill the right hon. Gentleman said that popular control in an effective sense involved the transfer—

> "Of the management and direction of every elementary school which depends on the State for support from a private to a public authority."

But on the Third Reading Mr. Asquith said that if this Bill passed into law—

> "Every public elementary school—by which, of course, I mean every school maintained both out of the rates and the taxes—will become a provided school, and be under the exclusive management and control of a representative public authority."

Thus, on the Second Reading public control was to be applied to every State-supported school, and on the Third Reading it is applied to schools both State-supported and rate-maintained. Mr. Asquith's speeches are a little difficult to reconcile, and perhaps the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council will be able to enlighten us upon them. Then, again, Mr. Birrell declared on the First Reading of the Bill that there should be no contracting out of public control. I do not criticise the views of Mr. Birrell and Mr. Asquith, but I think your Lordships will allow that there is a certain amount of discrepancy between the speeches of members of the Government and the clauses of the Bill as it stands, and I would ask the noble Earl the Lord President if he will explain those discrepancies.

Then as to the question of no tests for teachers. How have the Government carried out the mandate of the country with regard to that? How are we to reconcile the clauses in the Bill with the mandate received or with the speeches made by leading members of the Government? Another question upon which explanation is required from the Government is that of the granting of compulsory facilities, a matter which Mr. Birrell pathetically confessed during the Committee stage of the Bill was "in a tangle." Mr. Birrell, in introducing the Bill, said—

> "In those schools dealt with in Clause 2, on two days a week, if it is stipulated for and demanded by the parents, special denominational teaching of some kind shall be given at the expense of those demanding it, but not by the teacher nor in compulsory hours. Thus far the facilities or opportunities I have spoken of have been of a compulsory character. When demanded and when required the authorities must grant them."

When the Bill is examined, however, it is found that this pledge is not fulfilled. The local education authorities are only bound to allow facilities in a transferred school—

> "if it had been made a condition of any arrangement"

for the use of the school. On the Committee stage of the Bill it was pointed out that there was no obligation on the local authority to take over the schools or to grant facilities, and Amendments were moved to secure this, and to put Clauses 2 and 3 into accordance with the speeches of members of the Government. But when Mr. Birrell's reciprocal obligation clause was introduced it met with scant favour from his own Party, and was rejected by 327 votes to seventy-eight, the division affording the unique spectacle of the Government whips telling against the Government clause. I sincerely hope the noble Earl in charge of the Bill will definitely explain how the Government reconcile all these discrepancies. It seems evident that the Bill, despite its importance, has not been prepared with sufficient care.

LORD GRIMTHORPE: My Lords, we were told by the noble Marquess who has just sat down that the House of Lords, in passing the Second Reading of the Bill, has accepted its principle. That principle has been explained by the Minister in charge of the Bill in the House of Commons to be undenominationalism. That is the principle which underlies this Bill, and, therefore, any Amendments that are introduced with the intention of converting the Bill, which is undenominational, into a denominational measure will conflict with its principle, which has already been accepted by your Lordships' House.

Some of the Amendments on the Paper are undoubtedly of a wrecking character. They will emasculate the Bill, they will change its whole scope and character, and, therefore, they have no chance of being accepted by His Majesty's Government, although they may be forced upon the Government by this House. The right rev. Primate, who spoke, if I may be allowed to say so, with that wisdom and moderation and common-sense which the country has learned to expect from him, and which it never expects in vain, indicated that he did not intend to move any wrecking Amendments, and certainly the line he mapped out may possibly in some respects improve the Bill, but he has not yet put his Amendments upon the Paper. Other Amendments, however, have been put down, and if they are persisted in they must inevitably change the whole character of the Bill, and, therefore, they cannot possibly be accepted by the Government.

My noble friend who has just sat down pleaded that this Bill had not been considered sufficiently and with adequate care in the other House. I think that if he had occupied himself, as I have done during the last month, in reading in *Hansard* the entire debates in the House of Commons, he would not say that the Bill had not been sufficiently considered. The arguments on every aspect of the Bill were brought forward again and again, and I do not think that the Bill requires amendment in your Lordships' House on the ground that it was inadequately considered in the other House. This Bill is an honest and sincere attempt on the part of the Government to introduce peace into our schools, but I am afraid that their appeals for peace have fallen on deaf ears. I think that as long as religious controversy is mixed up with educational questions there can be no peace. In fact, it seems to me that the advancing wave of education must always be marked with a surf of sectarian strife, and, that being so, there is no chance of peace while religious controversy is mixed up with educational questions.

But, for all that, the State desires to see peace, and nobody can question that the paramount idea in the minds of the English people at the last election was to arrive at some satisfactory compromise under which justice should be done to everybody. I think that is the desire of the English people, but I am afraid—I do not say this with any disrespect—that Churchmen are almost constitutionally, I will not say incapable, but certainly averse to compromise. Therefore, it is proverbially difficult to arrange a compromise where Churchmen are concerned. It was this attitude on the part of Churchmen that was responsible for the Act of 1902. They had the power in those days, but they pressed their advantage too far and carried things with too high a hand, and it was because they did that in 1902 that your Lordships are now discussing this Bill in 1906. Had they acted in the hour of their power with greater moderation, had they paid more attention to the protests of their opponents, had they approached the question in a more conciliatory spirit, either this Bill would never have been introduced or it would have assumed an entirely different character. By pressing their powers too far they made a settlement that could not stand, and, therefore, the present Government had to take up the matter, and I trust that their settlement will be followed by a more fortunate result.

I said that the country desired a compromise. A compromise is a settlement of difficulties by mutual concessions, and the question is what concessions are the Opposition prepared to make in your Lordships' House. I think it was the Marquess of Londonderry who said that nobody was pleased with this Bill, that nobody had a good word to say for it. I think the noble Marquess was really going too far. But the fact that nobody is pleased with the Bill is one of the best things that could be said in its favour. It shows that it is not framed too much in the interests of any sect, any church, or any class. It shows that it has tried to hold the balance even; but now that it has entered your Lordship's House it may be said, without any stretch of imagination, to be passing through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, where it will encounter many and great dangers, but, nevertheless, I trust it will emerge safely on the other side, though it may possibly receive some knocks on the way and lose a limb or two.

It will be a great misfortune if the Bill does not survive. It is a compromise between the two extremities—secularism on the one hand and denominationalism on the other. The country has clearly pronounced against the denominational solution of this question. The denominational solution was proposed in 1902. That solution has been finally rejected by the country. Some other solution must be found. The other solution was secularism. I think all who have studied this question must know there is a good deal to be said for secularism. It is the only logical solution. As a matter of fact, the State is not at all bound to teach religion; it is only bound to give secular instruction to the children. Religion is, and ought to be, a matter for parents, and I believe if the Government had adopted the secular solution their Bill could hardly have been opposed with greater acrimony and vigour than has this Bill. Lord Beaconsfield, who had a knack of seeing further ahead than most people, once said that the time would come when the State would only have to provide secular education, and when all religious education would have to be provided by religious bodies. We have not come to that point yet. That solution has been rejected by the House of Commons by an overwhelming majority, and I think we can all congratulate ourselves on the fact. But, if you reject the denominational solution on the one hand, and the secular solution on the other, surely there only remains the undenominational solution, which is that now contained in this Bill.

An expression was used by one speaker, that this Bill as it stands will alienate the children from the Church of England, and that her interests under it will be materially injured. I cannot believe that to be so. I believe the Church of England exaggerates the result of this Bill. If she is that great and influential body I believe her to be, if she has that hold on the people which I believe her to have, the Church of England has very little indeed to fear from this Bill. The noble Marquess opposite said that 14,000 schools would be withdrawn from the Church of England.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I said would be abolished.

LORD GRIMTHORPE: The noble Marquess makes his case worse. I do not think the schools are going to be abolished; they are going to be transferred. But if they are transferred, my noble friend must remember they are transferred under conditions, and one of those conditions is that facilities have to be given in the schools. Denominational teaching will be given in those 14,000 schools for two days in the week, while hitherto it has only been the custom to give the Church Catechism and so on during two days in the week. Again, of these 14,000 schools at least 25 per cent.—some put it at 50 per cent.—will become four-fifths schools.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: May become.

LORD GRIMTHORPE: It is admitted that some of them will be four-fifths schools, and nobody has put the number lower than 25 per cent. In those four-fifths schools no change whatever will be made. The case, therefore, is really not so bad as the noble Marquess made out. I believe that the Church of England, with her powerful organisation and far-reaching influence, will have just as much to say in the training and education of the children under this Bill as she has had hitherto. May I ask what it is that is really underneath all the Amendments on the Paper? What is it that the Opposition are really striving for? You are striving for this, that every child in the country that is receiving denominational education should continue to receive that denominational education to the same extent, to the same degree, given by the same people and in the same way and the same form as hitherto; that practically there should be no change whatever made in substance or in essence in the teaching which the children have received hitherto in voluntary schools; that the privileges of the Church in the schools should remain absolutely intact, and although you admit popular control in theory, in practice it would be nothing but a shadow. That is really what the Opposition are contending for. If the Amendments on the Paper are carried, or if only half of them are carried, there will be practically no change whatever in the religious instruction given in the schools. They cannot expect that, and some compromise at all events must be arrived at.

It is impossible to maintain the position which the Church of England has taken up unless you can prove three paradoxes. These paradoxes are very prominent in nearly all the speeches made about this Bill. The first paradox is that the people of England, though a religious people, are not to be trusted to maintain religion in their schools; the second paradox is that religion is the same thing as dogma; and the third paradox is that Christianity cannot possibly be taught by simple Christian teaching. Now, those three paradoxes are maintained in all their integrity by the opponents of the Bill, who say there is no security for religious teaching. That rests with the people of this country. If they are determined not to have it, it is impossible to resist their wishes; but they have shown plainly that they do intend to have religious teaching, and religious teaching they will have. It is said on the one hand, there is no security that we shall have religious teaching and that we cannot trust the local bodies. On the other hand it is said, give all the powers to the parents and they will take care there is religious teaching in the schools. The local bodies are composed of parents, and I believe they are thoroughly just, upright, conscientious men, who have the interests of the children at heart.

You cannot have it both ways. Either the parents are to be trusted or they are not to be trusted. The parents will not save you on the one hand and destroy religious teaching on the other. There is no real fear that religious teaching will be discontinued in our schools. The trouble is that when you talk of religious teaching, what is often meant is denominational teaching. Plain Bible teaching has been described as municipal religion. I think nobody who has studied the syllabuses that have been issued will say that municipal religion is a bad imitation of the real thing. Those syllabuses have been drawn up by men of piety and integrity and wisdom. In fact, I think nobody has come forward since the publication of these syllabuses to find fault with them. The religion taught under these syllabuses is a religion that must undoubtedly have the effect upon the mind of the child which all religious teaching ought to have. But that is not enough apparently. You confuse religion with dogma. The two things are entirely different. Dogmatic teaching is not the same thing as religious teaching, and religious teaching is not the same thing as dogmatic teaching. Lord Robert Cecil, in the House of Commons, referred to certain doctrines as

> "dogmas over which Europe has been fighting for hundreds of years."

It seems to me an amazing thing that noble Lords and others should cling so to the necessity of giving this dogmatic instruction to children when their minds cannot possibly receive it. What is the use of teaching children dogmas which Europe has been fighting over for hundreds of years? Plain Bible teaching is the teaching most fitted for children, and it is, to my mind, a strange thing that the members of the Church of England are not satisfied with that teaching.

I now come to the third paradox, and here I must again quote Lord Robert Cecil, who made a most astonishing statement during the debate on the Education Bill. He said—

> "The morality of the Sermon on the Mount would be, I believe, accepted by almost every person in this country as part of their religious belief, but it is grotesque to tell me that it is fundamental Christianity. I say I regard such teaching as that as absolutely worthless from the point of view of Christianity, absolutely worthless, and I know that I speak with the full assent of a large proportion of the members of the Church of England."

I should like to ask the most rev. Primate whether that represents his view, whether in his view the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is absolutely worthless from the point of view of Christianity, and whether he thinks that the statement is correct that when Lord Robert Cecil enunciated that view he spoke with the full assent of a large proportion of the members of the Church of England. It seems to me that if the members of the Church of England take up that view and oppose the Bill on the ground that the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is absolutely worthless, it is a position which will do the Church of England more harm than it will do the Bill. The statement that the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, which contains the very essence of the spirit of Christianity, which embodies the highest doctrines in the world and has ennobled millions of lives — the statement that such teaching is worthless is one that is almost revolting to read.

The truth is that those who talk in that way are taking up the Catholic position. They forget that the Church of England is a Protestant Church, and as a Protestant Church it is built upon the Bible and rests upon the Bible. It is said, Why do you pay such respect to the consciences of the Jews and the Roman Catholics when you do not pay respect to the consciences of members of the Church of England? The position is entirely different. You cannot expect Jews to accept teaching which involves belief in Christianity, and as to Roman Catholics, it cannot be expected that they can be satisfied with simple Bible teaching which they regard as imperfect, and which is actively and fundamentally hostile to Roman Catholic ideas. The position of Protestants in this matter is a totally different one from the position of Roman Catholics. Therefore, it seems to me that in order to oppose this Bill successfully and to make out that it does a great injustice you have to prove these three paradoxes.

I doubt if you can convince the country that serious injury is done to the Church of England when it clearly understands what facilities are given to those who belong to the Church of England for continuing Church of England instruction in the transferred schools. If you think of the children themselves rather than of the interests of the Church, there can be no possible objection to make to the facilities now offered. The Cowper-Temple Clause has been in operation thirty-six years and has proved a great success. A generation has grown up since that clause was first established, and nobody can deny that children trained under that teaching in the board schools have turned out good citizens and capable of fulfilling their duties in every respect to the State. There is not one jot or tittle of evidence to prove that children brought up in Church schools are any better than the children brought up and trained in schools where the religious instruction has been under the Cowper-Temple clause. Therefore, the case against such teaching to my mind falls to the ground. I will read the advice given the Church of England by an eminent Churchman, and I recommend it to your notice. He said—

> "The Church of England ought to constitute itself the champion exponent of that fundamental Christianity which is common to Protestants, and which commends itself to the general acceptance of the English nation."

If the members of the Church of England adopted that principle, I am sure they would allow this measure to pass. This Bill is really an honest and sincere attempt to solve a most difficult problem and settle a great controversy, and it is the measure which has the best chance of produicng a satisfactory solution, for it does justice to all and shows favour to none.

*LORD BARNARD: My Lords, may I ask your Lordships' indulgence for a brief period while I draw your attention to one aspect of this Bill which I do not think has yet received the attention it deserves: I refer to the effect which it will have upon the law of charitable trusts. This is rather an intricate and technical subject, and perhaps, therefore, I should explain to your Lordships why, under the circumstances, I am so bold as to venture to intrude my views upon the subject. Some of your Lordships may be aware that for a period of over ten years I was engaged as an official in the Charity Commission, and during those ten years it was my daily business, except during vacation time, year in and year out, to deal with the law of charitable trusts; and unless a man is devoid entirely of intelligence he cannot pursue one occupation for ten whole years without being, at any rate to a certain extent, saturated with ideas upon the subject, and, in this case, obtaining technical knowledge of the principles underlying the laws relating to charitable trusts and their administration in this country and the history of those principles. The question has been very little referred to in the course of the debates on this Bill, either in this or in the other House, or even in the country. I gather—and this is from my own personal and official knowledge,—that people, although they have a deep and vital interest in charitable trusts, are, as a rule, not very conversant with the law on the subject.

Will your Lordships bear with me for one moment while I deal, as briefly as possible, with the principles of the law? Ever since the time of the Reformation, from after the dissolution of the religious houses, trusts for charitable purposes began to be created and to come into operation, and from that time to this those trusts have always received special favour at the hands of the Courts, at the hands of the Legislature, and at the hands of the administrative departments of the State. Your Lordships are familiar, I doubt not, with the general nature of a trust; but may I add to your knowledge the fact that a charitable trust is in law a trust for certain public purposes? Those purposes were originally defined in an Act passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which still is the governing Act, and all charities are now public charities or not by analogy with that Act of Parliament.

I have said that charities are particularly favoured by the Courts and by the country at large. I think it is very desirable that they should be so, because they are to a very large extent, though not absolutely, for the benefit of the poorer classes of the community. The purposes for which they exist are very largely for the benefit of the poor; therefore it naturally follows that anything that tends to impair the security of charitable trusts must be to the disadvantage of the poorer classes. A private trust, as your Lordships know very well, must be carried out literally, and the same applies to a charitable trust.

The most rev. Primate stated this afternoon that he does not consider a charitable trust absolutely sacrosanct. Neither does the law. The law, in its favour to charitable trusts, has always provided a means whereby such trusts can be adapted to the needs and exigencies of the day without in any way destroying them. That was always done, and is done at the present day, by means of what are technically known as "schemes." About the middle of the last century it was a very expensive matter to go to the Courts to obtain a scheme for the appointment of trustees or the alteration of the trusts of a charity; but through the efforts of one of the predecessors of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, Henry, Lord Brougham—through his efforts, extending over the best part of half a century, the Charitable Trusts Act of 1853 was eventually passed. That Act transferred to the Charity Commissioners a great many of the powers previously vested in the Courts, and simplified the machinery by which the Courts could deal with more important cases. That was a great step in advance, but it made no alteration in the principles on which the law governing these charities was founded.

The principle upon which charitable trusts are altered is no doubt familiar to many of your Lordships by the old Norman-French word *cy-près*. I have referred to-day, and on two or three previous occasions, in the Library of your Lordships' House to two books which contain so explicit and so clear a statement of the law on the subject that I think it is only due to your Lordships that I should mention them. One is a book the authority of which all noble and learned Lords will recognise; it is a book which I myself was obliged to read before I was called to the Bar, viz., Snell's "Principles of Equity." That book contains the clearest and most specific statement of what is a charitable trust, the nature of the circumstances under which it may be altered, and what the doctrine of *cy-près* is. The other book, which has been well known to me ever since I first entered the Charity Commission, is equally clear, viz., Tudor's "Law of Charitable Trusts." I am particularly familiar with that book, as I had the honour of assisting to edit one edition of it. Shortly speaking, the principle laid down in those books, adopted by the Courts, and recognised by the Legislature, is this; that where an intention has been expressed, when a trust has been created for a charitable purpose, the Courts and the Legislature will as nearly as possible—*cy-près*—carry out the intention of the donor or founder.

But what we do find is proposed in this Bill? In sub-section (2) of Clause 2 there is what I must venture to describe, judging from my own experience on the subject, as one of the most far-reaching propositions on this particular subject that it has ever been my lot to come across; in fact, never since the statute of Queen Elizabeth has such a proposal been laid before Parliament. It is that trustees of certain charitable trusts therein referred to should be at liberty to make any arrangements they think fit without any reference whatever to the trusts by which they are bound. I leave it to your Lordships to judge whether such a proceeding as that is conducive to the welfare of the public. The noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, on the Second Reading of this Bill referred to this subject, and a reference was made to that part of his speech by the noble Marquess the Leader of the House. I have this afternoon referred to the words used by the Leader of the House on that occasion, and it is quite clear to me that the noble Marquess had not in his mind when he was speaking sub-section (2) of Clause 2; he was thinking only of the provision which occurs later in the Bill for the establishment of a Commission—it is now Clause 9. That convinces me that even so important a person as the Leader of this House does not entirely grasp the effect which this Bill will have on the system of charitable trusts. Therefore I venture, with all the earnestness which I can bring to bear on the subject, to ask not only this House, but more especially His Majesty's Government, to reconsider these clauses of the Bill, particularly the clause to which I have just referred, and to see if it is not their duty to make some alteration, so as to prevent any breach in the continuity of the practice which has been so long adopted and so well established in this country.

There are not a very large number of people acquainted with this subject, or with its intricacies; at any rate, so far as your Lordships' House is concerned, I know only one other noble Lord, and that is Lord Colchester, who was for a time in the Charity Commission, though only concerned with one branch of the subject. I suppose that many great equity lawyers have more or less acquaintance with the subject, but since the establishment of the Charity Commissioners, to which I have already referred, these matters have been very largely withdrawn from the Courts, except in very rare cases, which are dealt with by the official generally known as "the Attorney General's devil." There are not many members of the Bar, I suspect, who are very familiar with this particular topic, and we know that the Attorney-General's "devils" are, as a rule, preferred to seats on the Bench, so that their mouths, in connection with such matters as these, are stopped.

I shall consider it my duty, unless some Amendments are proposed by His Majesty's Government, to endeavour to induce your Lordships in Committee to make some alteration in the provisions of the Bill in regard to this particular topic, to bring it more into harmony with the practice which has prevailed in this country for so many years, and I shall feel no hesitation in doing so, because I consider, as I stated just now, that it is the interests of the people, and especially of the lower classes, that are at stake.

I should very deeply regret, and I am sure your Lordships would regret, any action on the part of Parliament which would tend to impair the benefits which the humbler classes of His Majesty's subjects in England and Wales obtain from charitable trusts, even if those advantages were to be impaired for what I am sure noble Lords opposite will excuse me for saying I cannot but consider a purely political party purpose. There is no doubt whatever that His Majesty's Government have found themselves in a very difficult position. I do not know, and I do not think anybody knows—certainly it is not officially known in this House—what proportion of schools are subject to charitable trusts. I believe from what one has heard in the country that inquiries were recently instituted by the Board of Education as to the tenure of elementary schools, but the result of those inquiries, if there were any, has never been communicated to this House. Therefore we are really not in a position to deal with the question of schoolhouses subject to charitable trusts until such further information is vouchsafed to us. To my own certain knowledge, however, and to the knowledge of many of your Lordships, an enormous number of the public elementary schools of the country are held upon trust for the purpose of the instruction of the children of the poorer classes in the doctrine and principles of the Church of England. Again to my own knowledge, these deeds vary very widely; they are not all drawn on one model; there is no binding rule about them at all.

There is another subject in connection with these deeds to which I should like to refer, and that is an Act of Parliament which, as far as I know, appears to have been overlooked in the preparation of this Bill; I refer to the Schools Sites Act of, I think, 1841. That Act provides that a site for a school may be conveyed to the incumbent and churchwardens of any parish for the purposes of a school for that parish. The definition clause later in the Bill—and we must consider definitions in dealing with this subsection, because the word "owner" is there used—apparently altogether overlooks the fact that there are two bodies interested in the ownership of these elementary schools. There is, in the first place, the incumbent and churchwardens in whom is vested the legal estate, and they hold the site upon trust to permit it to be used by a body of managers whose qualifications are stated in the deed, and who must generally be members of the Church of England. I should like to know, and I hope we shall be told from the Treasury Bench, what is meant by "owners." Does it mean the incumbent and churchwardens in whom the bare legal estate is vested? Does it mean the managers who manage the school? Or does it mean both of these bodies in combination? That is merely one of the many little difficulties which must arise in the consideration of this particular question.

Then let me refer, for one moment, to Clause 9 and the following clause of the Bill. These clauses set up a Commission, which it is proposed should deal, as I consider in the proper way—by means of a scheme—with the trusts of all those schools which do not enter into any arrangement with the local education authority. I may remark that in this case I consider the provisions of the Bill to a certain extent satisfactory, inasmuch as it is prescribed that in making such schemes the Commission should act in accordance with the principles followed by the High Court in exercising, as the successors of the Court of Chancery, the ordinary jurisdiction as to charities inherent in that Court. If the Commission acts on those principles I shall have no fear but that charities which the donors and benefactors intended to be for the promotion of Church of England education will be preserved for that object.

But I would ask His Majesty's Government one other question. Assuming that the Bill were passed exactly in the form in which it now stands, and that a school subject to a charitable trust were to make one of these arrangements, I want to know whether His Majesty's Government intend—and here I may remark that I cordially agree with the most rev. Primate who stated earlier in the debate that what we want is to have the intentions of the Government written in the Bill—do they intend that those schools should be taken over from the present managers free of all expense, or do they intend that rent or other equivalent is to be paid for them? That is a vital question. I will assume for one moment that they intend that a rent should be paid. I do not quite know to which of the two bodies I have named the rent should be paid, but I would ask His Majesty's Government where in the Bill they have provided for the allocation of those moneys. They are charitable moneys subject to charitable trusts. What is to be done with them? How are they to be applied? I think that this and many similar questions require some explanation, and, if I mistake not, the Bill will require considerable amendment on this particular point. Far be it from me to suggest that any improper motive or any purely political motives have swayed the draughtsman of this Bill. At the same time, in so far as it deals with this particular question, I think the Bill fails lamentably to preserve intact the rights of citizens.

May I, in conclusion, venture to ask your Lordships to bear in mind what the result of such an innovation as is here proposed will be? I have often heard that Englishmen do not compare favourably with the people of other nations in the benefactions which they give for public purposes. I do not agree with the statement myself, from the intimate acquaintance I have had with the matter at the Charity Commission; but whether it is so or not, I ask your Lordships to consider what will be the result of establishing a precedent such as this, which is bound to be quoted on future occasions, that, when occasion requires, the wishes and intentions of founders and benefactors may be set at naught by Parliament. In a small way I have myself been the founder of a charity for the benefit of the sick poor in a town in the Midlands of England. I do not know that I should be best pleased if I thought that on some future occasion, perhaps even in my own lifetime, it might be said that the charity would be more usefully applied if it was devoted to some totally different object—say to municipal football, or something of the kind. I beg your Lordships to pause and consider very carefully what the effect of the proposal made in this Bill will be, not only in connection with the schools, but also in regard to charities and to donors and benefactors at large. My own impression is that it will very largely stop the flow of generosity and seriously injure the classes who benefit by that generosity. The noble Viscount (Viscount Goschen) has already alluded to this subject, and that brings me to the fact that under recent legislation—the Endowed Schools Act, for instance—empowering the Charity Commissioners and the Endowed Schools Commissioners to deal with certain charities, charities of recent creation were especially excepted, except with the consent of the governing body.

I should like also to draw your Lordships' attention to the fact stated in the textbooks to which I have alluded, that there are two circumstances, and two circumstances only, which justify the trusts of charitable property being authoritatively diverted to something different. One is that the original purpose is "impracticable," and the other that it is "inexpedient." Perhaps the best known case under the first of these heads is that of a charity administered by the Ironmongers Company in the City of London—a charity for the relief of Barbary captives. We all know that there are now no Barbary captives; therefore it is impracticable to carry out such a purpose, and a scheme for something different is necessary. Even in that case the Court attempted to carry out the trust *cy-près*, for they examined the will of the benefactor, and, finding that he had left the bulk of his property for educational purposes, they concluded that had he been alive and realised that this part of his charity could not be carried out, he would probably have given the whole to educational purposes, and they acted accordingly. There are many such cases. But I ask your Lordships to consider these two questions. In the first place, is it "impracticable" at the present day to give instruction in Church of England doctrine to the children of the poorer classes; and, in the second place, is it "inexpedient" as a matter of public policy to do so? I venture to leave those points with the greatest confidence to the consideration of your Lordships.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I do not rise for the purpose of adding anything to the very interesting and clear remarks on the subject of trusts which have just been addressed to you by the noble Lord behind me. I am sure that what he has said well requires the attention of the House, but certainly I am not competent to add anything on a subject so technical as that which he has introduced. There is, however, another question which has attracted very little attention in Parliament, but which is of the greatest possible interest to those who have to administer education in the country. The particular clause to which I wish to direct your Lordships' attention is now Clause 15, dealing with the delegation powers of the county councils.

The career of the clause has already been somewhat remarkable. A clause which called itself a delegation clause, but which to my mind could hardly deserve that description, was introduced to the other House with the Bill and read a second time. It gave every minor authority, even the parish council, power to require the county council to give them power with regard to the management of education in their own districts. Your Lordships will not be surprised to hear that the County Councils Association, whose opinion I wish to represent, took very strong objection to that clause, feeling that it would largely interfere with the proper carrying out of their duties and cripple them very largely in the administration of education. I readily recognise that our views, and the views of others, were speedily adopted by His Majesty's Government, for that clause was withdrawn in the other House before it was ever discussed. On that withdrawal there was another clause—a rather suggestive clause—brought forward by a private Member, the career of which was equally short. That clause was, I think, withdrawn on the same day that it was introduced to the notice of the Committee in the other House. Finally, the Minister for Education undertook to introduce a clause dealing with the subject, and it is that clause which we now have in the Bill, but neither in the other House nor in this House has it received the attention of which it is worthy, nor has there been any discussion of it on the part of those who have practical knowledge of the matter with which it deals.

With regard to this delegation clause let me say at once that I do not, in speaking on behalf of the County Councils Association, nor in expressing my own views, take the least exception to the principle of devolution. I recognise that there must be very great advantages in any proposal which will allow county councils to delegate their powers to minor authorities under conditions which will ensure efficiency and economy of management on the part of those local authorities. It is obvious that with the immense amount of detail with which the county councils have at present to deal, it must be a relief to them to feel secure that they can safely delegate some of their powers to local authorities who will be more on the spot and who can deal with matters according to the wishes of their neighbours. In addition to that, I think it is of the utmost importance that the county councils in carrying out their duties should be able to induce the best men in the different localities to interest themselves in the cause of education, and in the management of education locally. That object is not likely to be achieved unless you give those who are to take an interest in education some power, and thus induce them to give up time to a work in which they can be of very great assistance to the county councils.

But the point I wish to emphasise is that the clause as it stands, in the opinion of the County Councils Association, and with the assent of the great majority of the representatives of the county councils, does not fulfil the conditions they would like to see in regard to a clause of this description. I do not think I can do better than quote a resolution passed by the County Councils Association more than three months ago, before the present clause was introduced into the Bill. The resolution is to the following effect—

> "That the Council desire to express their strong opinion that no delegation clause is likely to work satisfactorily which does not allow the county council authority to constitute district committees without restriction in the manner best suited to the circumstances of the particular county."

No one can have heard the discussion by the representatives of different county councils without feeling strongly how very varied are the circumstances and conditions of the different counties in which this work of education has to be carried on, and that if you are going to impose stringent and fixed regulations as to the manner in which these committees are to be constituted you will in many cases prevent the assistance of the very best men and the men conversant with education whom it is the desire of all those in the country who take an interest in education to get to assist them in their work. What we feel is that the greatest possible latitude should be left to the county councils in this matter. I recognise that the broad conditions laid down in this clause may be very desirable in a large number of local districts. The clause practically says that these bodies are to be representative bodies in some form or other, either elected by the ratepayers or representing the minor local authorities. I fully recognise that direct representation has the greatest possible advantages, that with bodies elected by the ratepayers you have at all events the feeling that at their backs are the wishes and feelings of the ratepayers themselves. But while I feel fully that, whatever form the clause may take, eventually these conditions will be largely made use of in the election of the local education authorities, the point I wish especially to bring to the notice of the House and of the Government is whether, if there are places, and I have no doubt there are, where you will not get an efficient education authority in that way, they should be tied and bound to elect a committee in this particular manner. There may be many alternative modes of electing bodies suitable for having certain powers with regard to education. It is clear, to begin with, that it is highly desirable to enlist the assistance of those who take a real interest in the work of education, and in many of the districts, especially small scattered country districts, it is very doubtful whether you would get that by a system which compelled these bodies to be formed by direct election.

Let me take two or three cases. I am not sure what it is contemplated by the Government the position of the managers under this clause will be. There is a section which gives full power to the county councils to do away with managers altogether. Viscount Goschen spoke earlier in the debate of his fear that managers were going to be done away with altogether, especially in urban districts. This sub-section, if made use of, would allow county councils to do away with managers in every district, whether urban or rural. I know it is an optional clause, but at the same time, as we have had no explanation with regard to it, and practically no discussion upon it, I would venture to ask the Government what they conceive will be the manner in which this clause will be carried out, and whether they contemplate that this power will be largely made use of to do away with managers altogether. I can quite understand that in urban districts that may be possible and desirable, and that where you have two or three schools, or a group of schools, which may be managed by the urban district or by representatives of the urban district, with good educationists upon the committee, there would be very little left for the managers to do; but I very much doubt whether in scattered country districts, those who are interested in particular schools would at all like to feel that every power was taken away from them and handed over to a body, even a minor authority, on which they might be represented, or handed over without any regard to their opinions whatever. If managers are to be kept up in the country districts I venture to think that in any scheme of devolution, no better body could be constituted than one representing the managers of every parish in the district in which that minor body is to be constituted. In most parishes there is someone who takes an interest in education and finds his way on to the managing body, and if you have a body representing the managers of the different schools, I venture to think that such a body would be not only more in touch with the schools themselves, but much more efficient than any elected body would be, for the purpose of undertaking such duties as may be handed over to them by the county councils. In the clause as it stands such a scheme would not be possible, because the managers are not looked upon as a body who could be represented, but I think it would be a very great misfortune if an educational authority of that sort could not be constituted.

Then take another question. Your Lordships may be aware that in many counties the power given in the Act of 1902 has been made use of to constitute delegation bodies to assist the county councils in the management of education. In some cases they have had delegated to them powers connected with primary education; in others, they have had thrown in the local management of secondary education. In many cases they have been working with great satisfaction to the district and to all the people concerned, and they have appointed clerks and officers to work under them. What is to be the position of such bodies if these new bodies are to be constituted under the clause to which I am referring? One of two things must happen to them; either they must be abolished and make way for a body possibly less efficient than themselves and not so popular in the district for which they have to act, or you will have two bodies working side by side with overlapping powers, a state of things which cannot possible go on for any length of time.

These are only two points to which I have called your attention. Many criticisms might be passed on the clause as it stands, but I do not wish at this stage to refer to details. I should like to recognise that in sub-section (2) of the clause a very desirable power is given to county councils, viz., that when they delegate duties to one of these representative bodies, the expenses of those duties, if carried out, should be borne by the particular district. That, I think, will have a very wholesome effect in ensuring more economical, or, at all events, less extravagant management than might otherwise be the case, and the attention of the ratepayers in the district will be called to the fact if the management is extravagant, so that they may take care that they very soon have a different set of gentlemen on the education committee to manage their affairs.

I should like also to refer to sub-section (3), which lays down that the powers of these different bodies are to be uniform. I doubt very much whether that clause will encourage the granting of delegation powers. It is clear that if the powers are to be uniform, they will be governed by the amount of power which can be entrusted to the least competent authority in the county. No doubt these delegation powers must be tentative to a large degree, but the development of the system will be retarded if it is not possible to give to the best education committees or representative bodies larger powers than could be entrusted to one of whose efficiency there was great doubt.

I have ventured to bring forward these points because the question has been so little discussed before, and I thought it would be convenient that the views of so important a body as the County Councils Association should be heard before the Committee stage was embarked upon. I can assure the House and the Government that the views of the Association are not governed by any political sympathies whatever. The views which I have ventured to put forward as representing the opinions of the representatives of county councils in the country are equally shared by many gentlemen who are supporters of His Majesty's Government. I do not think that on this subject there is any difference of opinion on the ground of party politics. We sincerely believe that if you are to have a clause which will work satisfactorily in the way of delegating to minor authorities some of the powers which county councils will be glad to get rid of, it is most important that very great latitude should be given to the councils in deciding what is the best constitution to suit the needs of the particular districts, varying so greatly as they do in the different counties. I shall have some Amendments to propose in Committee, which I hope, when the time comes, will receive much support; I hope the Government will recognise the spirit in which those Amendments will be put forward, and, at all events, do something to second us in our desire that these delegation powers should be made as workable as possible, and that the clause should be so framed as to give wide powers to the county councils to settle the conditions under which these bodies should be constituted.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, after the long and varied discussion which we have had, I think it would be hardly respectful to your Lordships if some Member of His Majesty's Government did not intervene in the discussion. We met this afternoon, I think, largely with a sort of understanding in the air that advantage was to be taken of this preliminary discussion, on going into Committee, to raise some of those points which perhaps had received, owing to inevitable reasons, not quite sufficient attention in the debate on the Second Reading. I allude, borrowing the phrase of the noble Viscount who practically initiated this discussion, to what may be called the administrative aspects of the Bill.

I am sure that I express the feeling of all my colleagues when I say that to us at least this discussion has already been very satisfactory; because it has, I think, by this time entirely relieved us of any real necessity of replying very fully to a charge which was made, I know, quite *bona fide*, but still, I think rather unjustly, during the debate on the Second Reading—that this Bill was a Bill simply concerned with the religious difficulty—that it was simply a Bill concerned with an attempt, more or less successful according to the aspect from which each individual speaker looked at it, to regulate the respective rights, and to remedy the different grievances, of various religious bodies—bodies called Church and chapel. This discussion has undoubtedly brought out the fact that there are very large and important administrative aspects of this Bill. Some of them, no doubt, as the noble Viscount showed, or tried to show, are bound up with the working of the earlier clauses of the Bill, which deal with what is popularly called the religious difficulty, but others are in the later clauses of the Bill, such as those which have been touched upon in the interesting speech of my noble friend Lord Belper, and which have no connection, by any possible imagination, with the religious difficulty.

I myself would have wished that it might have been possible—but probably it was impossible—to have kept the religious difficulty out of this question this evening altogether, as no doubt most of us in our hearts intended that it should be. But the religious difficulty is rather like that famous head of King Charles I, which we know in "David Copperfield" somehow or other always got introduced, whether he liked it or not, into the wise advice which Mr. Dick used to convey to Miss Trotwood in regard to the education of David Copperfield. We are discussing the education not of one boy, like Mr. Dick and Miss Trotwood, but of the future generations of the children of this country, and it certainly would appear that, much as we try to do so, even in a calm discussion like that of this evening, King Charles I.'s head, in the shape of the religious difficulty, gets into the discussion whether we like it or not. I must say that if I wanted a conspicuous instance of this, I should find it at once in the speech of the noble Viscount who initiated this discussion; because he started by saying that his speech was going to be strictly administrative, and we were all delighted to hear that; but he had not proceeded five minutes before King Charles I's. head appeared, and it appeared again and again throughout the speech. We had the insinuation, no doubt perfectly sincerely made, that some of the clauses of this Bill, even in regard to such a colourless matter as delegation, were in some manner animated by the fear which the Radical had of the parson. That shows how very difficult indeed it is in this matter to keep out the religious difficulty even if you desire to do so. Therefore I am not going to make any rash pledge that I shall be perfectly successful myself in keeping it out, because with the illustrious examples before me of those who have tried and failed, I feel that I might try and fail also. But I can assuredly say that I shall do my utmost to keep it out, and to follow some, it not all, of those complicated points which have been raised by various noble Lords in the discussion; though I would, if I may, put in this *caveat*—that all those points are essentially Committee points, and that we might, I think, take our stand, if we chose, upon strict Parliamentary precedent, and say that we admit that most, or indeed all of those points are fair subjects for discussion and for difference of opinion, but that we could discuss them a great deal better if we had before us on the Paper the Amendments of noble Lords opposite, and of right rev. Prelates, and could come to close quarters, with the Chairman of Committees in the Chair. But as they have been raised at this stage, I shall try to deal with them, though my task is an arduous one, because these points are all very complicated, and involve many points in many Acts of Parliament. I shall, however, try to say a few words upon some of them.

The noble Viscount rather disappointed us in one way. We were under the impression that he was going to give us the benefit of his unrivalled knowledge of finance, but, except upon very minor and small points, he almost gave the go-by to the larger financial aspects of the Bill—possibly (I desire if I can to adopt that explanation)—thinking that a very able and interesting speech made upon the Second Reading of the Bill by the Marquess of Huntly sufficiently covered the ground.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: That was not my reason. My reason was that I could not possibly understand them on this point. There is no material for discussion of finance in the Bill.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: I was about to say with regard to the speech of the noble Lord whose name I have mentioned that I am glad to have this opportunity of stating what I know was felt by my noble friend the Lord President as well as by others—that we all realised at the time that that speech was unfortunately driven into a corner by the numerous speeches dealing with more exciting aspects of the question; but we desired then, as we desire now, to acknowledge that that speech was a very important contribution to the debate, hnd whatever the noble Viscount may aave felt, I think the noble Marquess to whom I allude certainly felt that there was a great deal in the Bill which was quite capable of accurate and full discussion, and it was for that reason that he brought his views before the House.

One of the points which the noble Viscount raised was in regard to the question of rent, and the noble Lord opposite, Lord Barnard, followed on the same lines, asking what was proposed to be done by this Bill in regard to the rent of the schools under the arrangements which are to be made under Section 2. He asked, would there be any rent; how much would it be; what would become of the rent after it had been paid; how would it be dealt with by the owners and trustees who would receive it? He seemed to think that those questions were very difficult to answer, and that there ought to have been in any case some clear statement in the Bill—clearer than any he could find. Really I cannot see where the difficulty is. Here are two bodies of people—one the owners and trustees of certain schools, reasonable and rational men, and the other the local education authority—who are to make certain arrangements in regard to the rent of certain buildings. What greater difficulty is there in these bodies arriving at a fair agreement in regard to the rental of these schools than has been experienced by the county education authorities during the last few years, all over England, in arriving at a similar agreement in regard to the rental of the houses of the schoolmasters, which were left, as I thought unjustly, by the Act of 1902 to be the property of the managers of the denominational schools, and in regard to which, in nine cases out of ten, agreements had to be made for the county authority to pay a rental? What has happened? Simply this. The county surveyor has been sent down to make a report as to the value of the building, he has reported to the county education authority, and the matter, so far as I know—and I have had some experience—has always been settled without any great difficulty, because the question is approached by gentlemen with knowledge of property in their own localities, and the rental is fixed in that manner. There will be a similar state of things in regard to the rental of these schools. The officials of the county council will be sent down to make a report as to the fair rental for the school buildings.

Then I am asked what will become of the rental afterwards. There again I see no difficulty whatever. The money will be handed over to the persons entitled by law to receive it—namely, the owners under the existing trusts. If the existing trusts are of such a nature as to enable them, without any further question, to apply that money in a proper manner, they will so apply it; and if, on the other hand, they find that their trusts are not sufficient, it will then be their bounden duty, and they will be compelled by other people to do it if they fail—but I am not suggesting that they will—to go to the Charity Commissioners, and to get a scheme for the application of the money so received. That is all under existing Acts of Parliament incorporated in this Bill, and in the Act of 1902, the machinery of which is perfectly familiar to a great number of noble Lords in this House.

Then I am asked, also, as to another question bearing upon this matter. What is to happen in regard to ordinary facilities in the case of those voluntary schools—those non-provided schools, as they now are—especially where there are trusts, in regard to the possibility of giving certain kinds of religious instruction, either in harmony with the Cowper-Temple clause or coming within the definition of ordinary facilities, or giving both? It was suggested by the noble Viscount, as I understand, that the Bill was very vague, if not altogether silent, upon this question. If the noble Viscount will look at sub-section (5) of Section 2, he will find that this matter, which was raised in the House of Commons, and which I admit was not fully dealt with in the original Bill, is wholly covered by the sub-section to which I have alluded. It will be a matter of arrangement, so that facilities and the Cowper-Temple teaching can, if necessary, both be given in these circumstances.

Then the noble Viscount, again sailing near the edge of this question, said—"Look at the sorrowful position of the unfortunate owners and trustees, in any case during the coming year. Possibly when all these arrangements are made, hard though it be to imagine it, no great injustice will be done. But just think of next year! If this Bill passes, what a sorrowful position a large body of denominational trustees will be in, with the dark future in front of them and the gloomy past behind them, still in occupation of their schools. What are they to do," he asked, almost in tones of indignation, "if they think the roof is going to tumble down or if they have to put in a new floor; who is going to pay for it?" I have the answer to the noble Viscount. I think he has forgotten, not a little clause in this Bill, but a very important sub-section buried away in one of the schedules of the Act of 1902. Has he forgotten that one of the most contentious subjects, a matter which was fought hard here on the floor of this House, and which in the House of Commons, where I then sat, we fought to the last, was as to the justice of allowing considerable sums of money, which represented the balances due, at the time of the passing of the Act, to the voluntary schools, to be paid over to them for the benefit of their structural fund—not merely to pay the existing current debts of the school for the last school year, but to be handed over to them, if there was a balance after the payment of any outstanding liabilities, and not only to be handed over to them, but handed over to the Voluntary Church Schools Association, so that all these funds should be pooled in every county? What was the excuse given us? There was only one, and that was these very structural expenses upon which the noble Viscount says they will not have a single penny to spend.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: All that money is spent already.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: Oh! is it spent already?

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: At the direction of the inspectors.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: The noble Viscount says that. He may speak from the experience of one particular county.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: No, no.

LORD FITZMAURICE: I know a county where it has not been spent, and in any case the money was given for that purpose. There were large sums, and I have never been able to get a Return in regard to the matter. I asked in the House of Commons, during the debates on the Education Bill, whether we were ever to have a full Return of these sums, but it was never given. Therefore, whether or not these sums have all been spent in some counties and not in others, my answer to the question of the noble Viscount is perfectly simple. When he asks, "How is the roof to be paid for next year under the regime of this present Government?" my reply is, "Out of the moneys handed over to these schools under the regime of the late Government." I hope I have, in any case upon this question, given a reply which will be satisfactory to the noble Viscount.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: No, certainly not.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: I have shown that, although he has forgotten it, he is in possession of large sums of money which he evidently has overlooked.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: They do not exist; they are not there.

* LORD FITZMAURICE: Now, my Lords, I do not think I would be justified in taking up your time with a detailed reply to what was said by the noble Lord opposite (Lord Barnard) in regard to the general rights of Parliament to interfere with trusts, I, of course, desire to acknowledge his great ability, and the experience which he has had in these matters. There is nobody, either in this or in the other House of Parliament, who can speak with greater knowledge upon this question. But after all, the matter was discussed upon the Second Reading of the Bill. We were told that this was another, and a most extreme, instance of the reckless conduct of Liberal Governments in interfering with trusts. I had to reply to that argument then, and I can only say briefly that we have heard these arguments before, that they are invariably brought forward every time any Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, attempts to deal with trusts, and I think I might in any case

express the hope that in that matter I have the noble Viscount on my side, because I may remind him that he was our protagonist and champion in the struggle for the abolition of University collegiate tests, and that in the House of Commons he was made the object of exactly the same attacks as those with which we are met to-day.

I now come to the speech of my noble friend who has just addressed the House. It is probably unnecessary that I should tell him that any argument, any request, any suggestion brought forward by the County Councils Association is one of which individually I must speak with the greatest respect. It has been my good fortune for many years to sit on that body with my noble friend and many other noble Lords whom I see in the House, and I can certainly say on behalf of the Government that we recognise the advantage which we have in this House in the presence of so many of those who have taken an active part in the work of the association, and in the work of the counties as chairmen, and that we hope, when we get into Committee, that we shall have the advantage of their assistance, especially in regard to these non-controversial questions

My noble friend has said with perfect truth that the fortunes of Clause 15 have been varied. The clause has, no doubt, assumed quite a different shape from that which it originally took, and it passed also through an intermediate stage; but I hope my noble friend will allow me to point out that that little piece of history is in itself a proof of how anxious the Government have been to knock this clause into a reasonable shape. We all know that this question of devolution is one of the most difficult in the whole of the Bill. Probably nobody would have blamed the Government very much if they had said: "The Bill deals with so many and such complicated questions that devolution must stand over for another year." But they were anxious to make this Bill a large and comprehensive measure, and knowing, as they did, that there was a very strong feeling in the country generally, shared in by the county councils themselves, that a certain amount of devolution was necessary, they decided to tackle the question, although they knew full well that they were marching into a sort of administrative hornets' nest, as the result indeed showed. In this clause the Government has had to try to piece together two things which it is difficult to piece together. They have had to secure the great advantages which have undoubtedly flowed to education from having bodies like the councils of boroughs and of counties operating over an area large in point of acreage and population, and, on the other hand, by a skilful system of devolution to minor authorities they have had to try to check the destruction of local interest which, to a certain extent, has been going on, especially in our rural districts, in the smaller areas of government. When the Government began to examine this question, they found, after hearing the views of many persons, that there was a great deal of difference of opinion as to what the devolution area and the devolution authority ought to be. There were some—I take for example the county of Northampton, in regard to which I have often had the advantage of hearing the views of the noble Lord whose absence we all regret so much—I mean Lord Spencer; I believe that in the county of Northampton they have very considerable confidence in their rural councils. In other counties they have greater confidence in the smaller area—in the parish council for example, which they think is still nearer to the people, and undoubtedly it is far nearer to the parents of the children than the rural council. In other counties—in the county of Somerset, for instance, it was put forward by Mr. Henry Hobhouse that it would be a desirable thing to have an even greater latitude, and to compose committees, or delegation bodies, not necessarily from any one particular area or one particular set of people, but taken from a wider area of selection. That being so, the ultimate decision of the Government was that they would, as far as possible, leave each county within certain limits to make its own scheme, their conclusion being, after hearing these various views, that the circumstances of one county were not necessarily those of another. Therefore my noble friend and I are so far on common ground, and all that we have really to work out is the application of that principle; we are not disputing as to the principle itself.

What I understand is that my noble friend will place upon the Paper certain Amendments which will perhaps carry further those views which, as I have said, have already been adopted by the Government. It would be impossible, of course, for me, or indeed for the Government, to-night to say how far we could accept those Amendments, until we have actually seen them; but I can certainly say in regard to what fell from the noble Viscount, and to a certain extent from my noble friend opposite, in regard to managers, that there again, on the point of principle, there is no difference between us, because they both urged the granting of powers to the managers on the ground that the managers were exceedingly near and close locally to the parents of the children attending the schools. That, as I have said, it is the wish of the Government to recognise, and it is of course to be borne in mind—and here I am furnishing the noble Viscount with an argument—that when the process, much dreaded by him, of turning all these schools into provided schools has been carried out, the managers of the schools will all, in a way, be representatives of public local authorities, because they will not be appointed by owners or parents, but they will be appointed, under the Act of 1902, partly by the county councils, partly by the borough councils in the case of boroughs, and partly, in the counties, by representatives of the parish.

Then we were asked to explain rather more fully what we meant in regard to this question of managers by one of the sub-sections at the end of Clause 15—sub-section (8). I think the noble Viscount said that this was the only place in the Bill where he could find any mention of the managers.

Viscount GOSCHEN: Except in the Schedule.

*Lord FITZMAURICE: This is sub-section (8), I think. The meaning of that sub-section is simply this. We recognise that there may be some counties which will take the area of the parish council as the education area. There will be a parish council in most of those parishes, and it occurred to the Government that it would be rather absurd if, in a comparatively small parish, there were two bodies, very likely almost the same people, both concerned with the management of the same school, and that therefore it should be possible, in the case of a comparatively small parish, where there is a parish council, that the parish council itself should be capable of being constituted managers of the school. That is all the clause means. No doubt, theoretically, it applies elsewhere, but as a matter of practice it would be almost impossible to apply the clause except in a rural parish. The words no doubt used are—

"Managers appointed under Section 6 of the Act, 1902,"

and I am quite aware that that section covers boroughs as well as parishes; but I think if the noble Viscount, with his great experience, will look at the clause he will see that the object and meaning are perfectly plain. If, however, it is necessary to make even clearer the meaning which I have explained, there will be no difficulty in moving words to effect that object in Committee. But the clause itself fully meets the wishes of the noble Viscount, because it recognises that it will be desirable in many cases to have a body of local managers, whether through the parish council or somebody else, representing those persons who are nearest to the interests, and have the greatest knowledge, of the children who are actually attending the school.

The noble Viscount said also that he regretted that we had involved this Bill in a great amount of confusion by the importation of no less than five classes of schools. It is true, if you analyse the Bill very closely, that there will be five classes of schools under the administration of the county council; but I must remind the noble Viscount and noble Lords opposite that, if these different classes of schools exist, they have been brought into operation one by one in order to make an honest attempt to meet, so far as we can, the wishes of noble Lords opposite and of right rev. Prelates, in regard to the maintenance of a certain kind of religious education. Therefore I shall be a little disappointed if, in these debates, we are to have these works which I think ought to be counted to us by noble Lords opposite for righteousness, taken up and cast in our teeth, because in reality they do not represent our abstract desires in the matter; our abstract desires would be limited to the application of Clause 1.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My noble friend has not caught my point. My point was that the Bill was so drawn that it was necessary to introduce these different classes of schools, whereas the whole thing might have been remedied by making one uniform system for the provided schools giving the necessary facilities for parents. If that were done the whole of these difficulties would vanish.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: I am inclined to think that if the noble Viscount were to try to work out that scheme into a Bill, he would probably find that there were almost as many varieties of schools as under our Bill. It is very easy to lay down a general proposition, and to say it is all quite plain and simple, and it is not for me to set my limited experience against the great experience of the noble Viscount; but I think the plan that he has explained will immediately suggest to those who have had experience of educational administration an immense confusion of all kinds of varied administration and varied schools.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: One administration.

*LORD FITZMAURICE: Be that as it may, we shall attempt in Committee to justify these proposals, and it will, I think, be for noble Lords opposite to put their Amendments on the Paper and show us their hand. The most rev. Prelate, in a speech which, like all his speeches, was of the greatest moderation of form and partly so in substance, said he almost hoped that before we went into Committee the Government would have put down some Amendments. I am afraid I cannot hold out any hope that we are going to do anything of the kind. We appear without fear with this Bill which has come up from another place. We think we can justify it. We believe that we have a great majority of the people of this country behind it, and behind the Government that brought it in. At the same time, there will be every desire to meet noble Lords and right rev. Prelates so far as possible. But there is one observation, and one observation only, in regard to the controversial aspects of this question, which I shall venture to make. I admitted a moment ago the moderation, both of form and of substance, of the speech of the most rev. Primate. But at the end of that speech there was an observation which I confess filled me with some little alarm. I am not certain that I understood it—I hope I misunderstood it; but so far as I understood it, it was that, going considerably beyond what he said on Second Reading, he expressed the opinion that there ought to be what I think he called reciprocity between the existing provided schools and the non-provided schools which are now to become what have been called in these debates transferred schools, and that if it is fair to bring Cowper-Temple teaching to any extent into the present non-provided schools, there ought to be reciprocity, and that ordinary facilities should be capable of being put into the existing provided schools. That suggestion has often been made; therefore I was not altogether unprepared for it, but I am bound to say that that would be striking a blow at the Bill in a vital point. I am sure if noble Lords will refer to the debates which took place elsewhere, and in the country at large, they will see that there is hardly anything which is more strongly held by Liberal and by Nonconformist opinion than that, whatever else may happen, whether this Bill passes or whether it does not, no stone shall be touched, and no hand shall be laid, upon the old school board schools, the present county council schools, which have been raised and paid for by the money of the taxpayers and ratepayers of the country, and are their property and in their possession.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: The noble Lord who has just spoken has closed his speech with a very remarkable and significant statement — that although the voluntary schools may be swept away or their existence imperilled without a word, the provided schools are to be treated as so sacred that they are to be regarded as the Ark of the Covenant which nobody must criticise, discuss, or seek to amend. I never heard a more extraordinary statement. The noble Lord commenced his speech by expressing his surprise at the introduction of the religious difficulty. Did your Lordships ever hear anything more astounding? If there was no religious difficulty, would there be any Bill? Will not the Bill be a hopeless and miserable failure if it leaves the religious difficulty in a state of worse confusion than when you put your hands to paper?

The noble Lord dealt, with an ingenuity at which I was not surprised, with some of the topics, not the largest ones, that have been introduced into the debate this evening; but when he might have applied himself to dealing with the larger questions which have been thrown out for discussion—some of the suggestions in the speech of the most rev. Primate, or put forward by the noble Viscount—I would have expected to hear some words indicating a desire on the part of the Government to consider those topics in Committee with an open mind, and an anxiety to meet them, as far as possible, by fair Amendments and in a fair spirit. But there was not one single syllable indicating a desire to compromise, or to meet difficulties in any reasonable way.

The noble Lord said, in reference to the most rev. Primate's speech: "Let him come into the open, and put his Amendments on the Paper." I have no doubt, whatever, from what was said by the most rev. Primate, that he will put his Amendments on the Paper, and that Amendments will be brought forward by noble Lords in other parts of the House; and I have no doubt that the noble Lord the President of the Council will consider and discuss them with the fairness which he always evidences in his proceedings in this House. But surely the obligation to place Amendments on the Paper is not all one-sided. Surely, having regard to what took place in the House of Commons, and to Mr. Birrell's numerous statements as to what he hoped, and expected, and intended, but did not actually do, through the Bill, we have a right to expect that the Government will present their Amendments, that they must have Amendments that are ready, and that they will themselves come into the open and show that they are not only people with most splendid intentions, but they know how to carry out those intentions, by putting into the Bill apt words which cannot be misconstrued, forgotten, or explained away. I have no doubt this is a topic which will be mentioned repeatedly as the discussion proceeds. It will be impossible for the Government to fold their hands and say that they alone of the people in this House are not to present Amendments. Everyone knows that the Bill teems with points of attack, that it abounds in positions that indicate the necessity of Amendment, and that if it is not copiously amended it will be unintelligible if passed into law, and must be doomed to complete failure.

No one can suggest that my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition has indicated the slightest desire to retard the consideration of every aspect of this Bill. When it was suggested, two or three nights ago, by the noble Marquess the Leader of the House that he desired that the appeal in the West Riding case should proceed without any regard to, or interference with, the proceedings on this Bill, my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition indicated no dissent, leaving the Government to adopt their own course and not taking any part at all which would indicate the slightest desire whatever to retard the progress of the Government's procedure as to what they thought the best way of carrying on their business and bringing this matter fully and completely before Parliament.

I cannot think that the interval of two or three months which has elapsed from the time the House adjourned for the recess has been spent in vain. We were invited by the noble Marquess the Leader of the House, in his closing speech before the adjournment, to carefully read and consider this Bill, and I think most of us have had ample opportunity of so doing; I know I have myself, and I am sure a great many of your Lordships have also. We have had abundant opportunity of reading also a vast amount of literature on this question, and of meeting a great many very intelligent "men in the street," who are able to tell us their opinion, and how the question strikes them. I believe myself that this time of intercourse with our fellow citizens has been fruitful in instruction. I do not think the Bill has stood the test of criticism, examination, or time. Every criticism that I heard made on the Second Reading of this Bill has been confirmed and strengthened during the time which has elapsed, by the progress and development of opinion. I do not wish to impute anything to the Government, because it is best always to impute as good motives as you reasonably can; but if the Government were given their choice as to what they would like to happen to this Bill, I believe the course which they would most dread to face, and most dislike to adopt, would be that of passing the Bill into law forthwith as it stands now, unamended and with all its imperfections. I think if that were proposed now, the noble Marquess opposite would hold up his hands in pious attitude, and say, "Save us from our friends!"

I commence with an observation that is really a matter by which any legislative proposal of this magnitude, complexity, and importance has a right to be judged. It has not a vestige of the principle of either settlement or finality. It disturbs, I admit not illegitimately, a previous settlement, because certain changes were deemed right and fair; but if you disturb a pre-existing settlement, it should be with a view to establishing something in its place that would be regarded as a better settlement, or at all events a settlement with some principle of finality. If this Bill passed in its present shape, it is quite obvious that there would not be any chance of finality in it. The noble Lord opposite, Lord Grimthorpe, said that the Bill was conceived in a spirit of compromise. What did he mean by the word "compromise"? Where is the compromise? If compromising is taking all on one side, and giving nothing to the other, he is right; but if the word is to be taken in the ordinary sense, no one except a person who thought he was addressing a lunatic asylum would venture to adopt any such phrase.

**LORD GRIMTHORPE**: I may say that the compromise was between secularism on the one side and denominationalism on the other.

***LORD ASHBOURNE**: The word "compromise" was the word on which the noble Lord placed his principal reliance, and it struck me that it was a very extraordinary statement, and one that did not bear any examination from any ordinary standpoint. The conception of the Bill, I think the noble Lord said, was that it should be on undenominational lines. Be it so. And there was to be one class of schools that was to carry out that conception. That broke down the very minute it was sought to be applied. Instead of there being one class of schools all entirely undenominational, the very necessity of the thing required the Government to proceed to re-manufacture the first clause in four or five clauses that followed after; and we find that instead of there being one single class of schools there are four or five classes, and that the principle of undenominationalism had to be practically put aside again from the necessity of things, and that the principle of denominationalism, that is, definite religious teaching, had to be recognised in Sections 3 and 4.

The fourth clause, which has been so much attacked, is an interesting and in a sense a valuable clause. It is valuable because it shows that the simplest elements of justice require that denominationalism must be recognised, and that something should be done to meet the legitimate claims of those who believe in the religion that they profess. More than that, it recognises the rights of parents to be considered in reference to that tremendously important matter. Having made these recognitions, it is obvious, on reading the clause, that it is to the last degree partial and unfair. Let there be equality all round. What is justice for one, let it be justice for all. But this Clause 4, which is a strange piece of drafting, is not just, fair, or workable. I have no right to make constitutional suggestions, but I almost wish that our constitutional arrangements would enable the draftsman of a great Bill like this to be made a sessional Peer. I think it would be an infinite comfort if we could have him introduced for the session—I think one session would be enough for him—so that he could hear his work discussed, and be asked to explain what is meant by the extraordinary adjustments of language and clauses.

I have said that the Bill is partial and unjust. Is it not so? It is brought in to endeavour to satisfy the Roman Catholics and the Jews. That is a perfectly legitimate purpose. They have every claim to be satisfied. They have every right to have their legitimate wants met. Mr Morley, speaking some months ago (I was greatly struck by his words, but I am not quite sure that he would use them now, in the light of subsequent discussions, although he might, because he is an honest and upright politician), said that the clause was framed to meet the needs and the desires of non-Protestants. What did he mean? That the Roman Catholics were entitled to consideration because they were non-Protestants; that the Jews were entitled to consideration for the same reason; but that the Church of England and any Protestants that desired special facilities might come in at the tail as well as they could. It was said by Mr. Birrell that he did not intend to damage the Church or its interests. I am sure that the words of Mr. Birrell, he being an honourable gentleman, are entitled to acceptance. It was not intended to damage those interests, but was it intended to ignore them, or to forget them? Were they realised? Did he ever try to appreciate the standpoint of the Church? Is it not obvious to anyone who reads the Bill that the Church, and the interests of millions who belong to it, were all put aside or treated as of no account? Several other classes were considered and dealt with, but no account was taken of the largest class in the country. It was right and just, the argument of Mr. Morley goes, to consider the claims of the Roman Catholics, because their conscientious feelings require it. It was right and just to consider the claims of the Jews for the same reason. I ask, then, in the name of fairplay and common justice, why are not the conscientious views and conclusions of the members of the great Church of England also to be borne in mind? I can see no answer to that, except it be this—that what was good enough for Dr. Clifford was good enough for them. I can see no other possible way of defending it.

Four things stand out conspicuously plain after all the discussion of these months. The country will have no secularism. It demands and insists upon religious education; that that religious education should be given in school hours, that it is to be given by competent and convinced teachers, and that the wishes of the parents are to be had some regard to. One would almost say that these were maxims of common sense. I would like to hear the Government say how they regard these propositions, which to us are so obvious. The right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Hereford has, I believe, adopted every one of these four points, and I believe others also. Although he is in favour of the Bill, and anxious to support it, he mentions these and other Amendments as being necessary. Surely we are entitled, either by Amendments on the Paper, or by adequate speech in your Lordships' House on this stage of the Bill, to be told how the Government regard these important matters.

This is not the time to discuss the details, but there are two broad facts that have struck my mind in reading the Bill. In my opinion—and I have read this Bill in the closest way more than once—the existence of voluntary schools is in deadly peril under the clauses of the Bill. It is not a Bill for translating them into ordinary provided schools. Nothing of the kind. If this Bill passes it prescribes a charter under which the voluntary schools of the country may be extinguished, some of them, it may be, gradually; but a machinery—potent, even omnipotent—is provided, under which the voluntary schools of the country are placed, first in deadly peril and then may be bled to death.

I again come to the intentions of Mr. Birrell. I speak of him with all respect, entirely believing in the sincerity which animates his expressions of opinion. But no one can deny the legal construction of the Bill, by which these voluntary schools are handed over, bound neck and heels to the action of the local authority; the local education authority may refuse to take over all or some of them, and those that are left out will die. Mr. Birrell said that that was not his intention, that he intended that all suitable schools should be taken over, and that all fair-minded councils would take over all the schools that were suitable structurally and otherwise. I hope, and I would like to expect, that that would be so, but it is not in the Bill. Being a plain man with a legal training, I am glad to found myself on a more acute ecclesiastical mind. The most rev. Primate pointed out that nothing could be more agreeable than the good wishes and benevolent designs of Mr. Birrell, but they are not in the Bill. What is in the Bill is this: that the local education authorities need only take over the voluntary schools where they desire to do so. What a foundation to rest on! It is a mere quicksand. You put all the voluntary schools, which have done so much in history and in reality, on which generations in the past and millions in the present are spending thousands of pounds—you put them all outside the protection of the Act of Parliament, hanging on the words of a Minister, words which are liable to be forgotten no matter how honourable the Minister may be, and you refuse to put one syllable into the Act to enable people to say, "These are the wishes and intentions of Parliament, stated in the terms of the statute, which would otherwise expose us to the danger of destruction." This is a real danger. Viscount Goschen put the matter with admirable force. I hate making personal charges, and I will not make any. But the local education authorities vary; some of them are good; some of them, may be, too good, and they might have a notion in their minds that they had a more excellent way for the education of the country than taking over these voluntary schools, which, to their minds, have nothing to recommend them ignoring their history and the religious teaching and the memories of those who founded them, spent their money upon them, and died in the hope that they would always give the education they desired. These local education authorities might, it may be, think that they could give better education in larger and grander buildings, better organised, better co-ordinated; they might think they could do the work better by a system of centralisation; they might have no sympathy with the cause of religious education; they might have their own fads to carry out; and you would be thus leaning for the protection of the voluntary schools upon local authorities that were absolutely free to do what they liked, to follow out every whim that passed through their minds; and thus it might be that though many of them—I hope very many of them—would be anxious to act according to the kindly and benevolent hopes of Mr. Birrell, there might be others who would leave thousands of these schools out in the cold to die and be forgotten, with no statute to appeal to.

Why appeal to the Government to put down Amendments dealing with this question? The answer is this. In order that these schools should not be left in a position of real peril. It is not fair; it is not just; it is un-English. It is reasonable that the noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs should ask noble Lords to come forward and place their Amendments on the Paper, to come out into the open and show their hands. But let the Government show their hand. Do they mean to leave these schools at the mere beck of the local education authority, without putting a line or comma into the Bill that can give them legal protection and duration? Do they mean to leave them to the accident of every change of mind that each election may bring about, fought, it may be, on educational or religious grounds? Again I say it is not reasonable or just. I think the Government should come forward, and by apt words or reasonable Amendments show us that they do not intend these consequences to follow.

There is one other point I wish to mention; it is in reference to the special facilities. Really that clause, if it were not such a tremendously grave thing, dealing with such serious and important topics, touching us all so nearly, would be ludicrous in its—I cannot call it cunning drafting, but in its curious, mixed-up, involved and incomprehensible drafting. There are a lot of fanciful conditions. "Fanciful" is the kindest word I can use. Mr. Birrell said himself that in order to get the special facilities these schools had to run the gauntlet of very severe provisions. Why should they run any such gauntlet to get that right? I am not going to discuss the clause now. But what reason is there for supporting the restriction of these special facilities, under all the circumstances, to an urban district of 5,000 population? Is there either logic or sense for it? May not every single reason that would induce you to give these special facilities exist equally outside an urban district? May there not be the same reasons as to population, the same second school, the same need of providing everything? Why have you got in your mind this fetish limiting the facilities to the urban districts? The four-fifths clause is really a conundrum. You might as well take any other figure, instead of bluntly and frankly saying that in a district where the other conditions were satisfied and the majority of parents desired it they should be entitled to get these special facilities. Is it much to ask or much to give special facilities to parents to teach their children their own religion if the majority of them desire it? That is a very grave and serious matter to consider.

Then there is no appeal that can be regarded as satisfactory. There is no appeal at all on the earlier point I made as to saving the school from destruction if the local education authority will not take it over. On that large and vital point there is no appeal whatever, good or bad. As to special facilities, there is an appeal to the Board of Education. And what may be the result of that appeal? One of the results — and if the Bill remained as it is I think it might become the favourite result—would be to turn the school into a State-aided school. I can understand the temptation to work that plan. The local education authority would be greatly tempted to say—

> "Put them off the rates, and make it a State-aided school, thus freeing us of all trouble and difficulty."

That is one of the points the Government will have very seriously to explain in Committee. This introduction of the State-aided school was entirely the creation of the Governmental genius, and they seem proud of it, because they put in immediately afterwards, that if twenty parents are dissatisfied about the special facilities there may be an appeal to the Board of Education. And what is to happen then? Not that the Board of Education is to put the matter right, but if they find that the parents are right, and that the facilities are inadequate and unreasonable, the school is to become a State-aided school. Can you conceive anything more marvellous in drafting than that? The parents complain that the facilities are not given fairly and reasonably. On appeal the Board of Education find that the complaints are justified. But they do not try to set the matter right. They take the school off the rates and make it a State aided school!

There is only one other matter to which I will refer, and that is the question of charitable trusts, to which Lord Barnard so clearly and forcibly alluded. I do not think the noble Lord opposite much cared about grappling with the question; he played with the fringe of it gravely, but still——

LORD FITZMAURICE: I spoke very fully on that point in the debate on the Second Reading, and I said that I did not think I should be justified in repeating my arguments on the present occasion.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: I had the pleasure of hearing the noble Lord on the Second Reading, when he discussed everything in the fullest way, but I was confining myself to to-day, and I only want to make a couple of observations in reference to it. This clause is extremely strange. It hands over charitable trusts to the absolute mercy of the trustees. I do not say they may betray their trust, but they may be unmindful of its importance and the need of carrying it out, and they may hand it over without check or stint to the local education authority. That is certainly not in accordance with the existing law. Unless there is some tremendous public interest behind to justify it it would be a monstrous change to introduce. Bear in mind, too, that as the noble Viscount (Viscount Goschen) pointed out, it can be applied to trusts which were created only two or three years ago, when thousands upon thousands of pounds were spent in the belief that these charitable trusts would be administered according to the then state of the law. It is true that a Commission is called into existence to deal with the charitable trusts which have not been handed over by the trustees. One would think it would have been more reasonable to enable an appeal to be taken to the Commission by anyone dissatisfied with the action of the trustees. I am not satisfied about the powers that are given, but I will not discuss them now. In some particulars the powers are too wide, in others they are too narrow; I say nothing as to the *personnel* of the Commission. I believe it is entitled to all the approval that has been expressed in reference to it.

At this late hour, my Lords, I would not be justified in occupying more of your time. The Bill requires the closest possible examination. Reading through it once or twice will not get one to the bottom of its meanings, no matter what advantages your Lordships may have in the way of technical practice in reading such documents. It is not an easy Bill to understand or to follow, and to balance the clauses one against another. In many particulars as framed and unamended it is unjust and unworkable; it merits, and I am sure it will receive at your Lordships' hands, a searching, jealous, and, I trust, very acute examination.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, at this late hour, if I consulted my own inclination, I should be disposed to leave matters as they are, but I fear I should scarcely be acquitted of discourtesy to noble Lords opposite if I were not to make just a few observations in reply to what has fallen from speakers on that side of the House. I re-echo what fell from my noble friend behind me, and from the noble Viscount who spoke second in this debate, as to the advantage which the House has gained from holding this discussion. Even those who, like my noble friend Lord Grimthorpe, have devoted the entir eperiod of the recess to a study of this subject will feel that a discussion of this kind does something to clarify their ideas, and to concentrate their attention on the more important points of the Bill.

First of all, it is right that I should say a word with reference to the Motion which was placed on the Paper by the noble Lord on the Cross Benches, in relation to a possible postponement of this subject. The appeal which the Board of Education has made from the Court of Appeal to your Lordships' House in its judicial capacity was, as my noble friend the Leader of the House stated, taken purely on administrative grounds. It was found as the autumn went on that the local authorities were placed in a position of great confusion and difficulty by the judgment of the Court of Appeal. Individual members of educational authorities found themselves in a position which might lead to their incurring serious personal liability. It was obvious that it was our duty to remove that uncertainty as soon as the necessity was impressed upon us, and therefore we lost no time in appealing. The noble Lord on the Cross Benches seemed to imagine that in not postponing the discussion of this Bill we were actuated by some mysterious motive.

LORD STANMORE: No.

THE EARL OF CREWE: Well, the noble Lord spoke of some tactical advantage. I do not know what communication may have passed between him and others, but certainly no communications whatever, so far as I know, passed between this Bench and himself which could have led him to think that any tactical advantage was involved. I do not know whether noble Lords opposite see any tactical advantage in that action. We see no tactical advantage, or the contrary, to ourselves in going on; and when the noble Lord spoke of the danger of wrecking the Bill which might be involved by postponement again, I do not know what his authority was for that statement. It is undoubtedly true that, in view of the uncertainty which must exist as to when the appeal to your Lordships' House can be finally decided, an indefinite delay would take place, and it might have happened that we should not have been able to proceed with this measure until an extremely inconvenient time. I can conceive that we might have been carried on into next year. That would have been exceedingly inconvenient, but it is by no means the same thing as saying that the Bill would have been wrecked.

I desire before leaving this subject fully to acknowledge the attitude taken by the noble Lords opposite in leaving us to use the best judgment we can in reference to proceeding with the Bill. We decided to proceed because we believe that the discussion on the Bill will not be seriously, or indeed at all materially, hampered or interfered with by the fact that this judgment is under review. There is a common impression existing, I daresay, mainly in the minds of those who have read neither the judgment of the Court of Appeal nor the Bill, that there is some close connection between the two. The noble Lord on the Cross Benches, of course, is not in that position. It certainly does seem to me that the judgment has no real bearing upon this Bill in the sense of affecting our proceedings in the matter. I think it is quite possible for us to carry on this discussion regarding the decision of the Court of Appeal as not having come to hand, and I see no reason why, in the course of this discussion, it should be even mentioned.

I now pass to one or two matters arising out of the debate. Many of the remarks of the noble Viscount who spoke second have been dealt with by my noble friend behind me. There is only one to which I wish to allude. The noble Viscount spoke of both sides of the House as being combined against the possible advance of secularism, and he seemed to hint that it might be the case that in the council schools of this country a tendency to secularism was at any rate increasing. I do not know on what authority the noble Viscount made that statement. So far as I know there is no foundation for it, and I do think that the Return of the county syllabuses which was placed in the hands of your Lordships in the summer would certainly lead us to a contrary conclusion. As I said at the time, and I say again, I was agreeably surprised at the extent to which real religious instruction is given in council schools, and I hope and believe that the fears expressed by the noble Viscount have no real foundation in fact.

I pass to one or two observations made by the most rev. Primate. He spoke of the great number of petitions that he had kindly refrained from laying on the Table but which he had brought to your Lordships' House. Their number does not surprise me, for it is common knowledge that a very considerable feeling has been aroused among Churchmen, particularly Churchmen of a certain school, in reference to some of the provisions of this measure. But the most rev. Primate mentioned one petition signed by a number of trustees of voluntary schools in which they asked not to be "forbidden" to carry out their trust. Well, my Lords, that word seems to me to convey a very great inaccuracy. Nobody forbids them to carry out their trust. What may be done under the Bill is to cease to supply them with funds to carry out their trust. That appears to me to be an entirely different matter, and it is hardly a correct use of the English language to say that in any sense they are forbidden to carry out their trust because public money is not forthcoming for the purpose.

Then the most rev. Primate said a word about the financial provisions of the Bill, and complained that they had not been sufficiently explained. I am afraid I passed lightly over them in my Second Reading speech. I wearied your Lordships then for nearly two hours, and it was impossible to deal at length with all the points in the Bill. I did, however, two days ago state, as clearly as I am able, in reply to a question from the noble Lord opposite, what the position is with regard to the disposition and allocation of the £1,000,000 provided under the Bill, and I notice that another noble friend of mine has a Question on the Paper on the some subject to which I shall be happy to give an Answer on Monday.

The most rev. Primate intimated that there were certain discrepancies between statements which had been made by those who were able to speak with authority about this Bill and the words in the Bill itself, and the noble Marquess opposite, Lord Londonderry, made a similar complaint. The most rev. Primate first accused us of inconsistency with regard to Clause 4. He stated that Mr. Birrell had, as indeed he did, stated that it was the intention of the clause that religious teaching should in those schools be carried on as heretofore. It is exceedingly difficult, of course, to be sure that one places the same construction on a phrase as another may place on it. We know how difficult it is, from the case which has been the subject of part of the discussion to-night, to speak clearly even in an Act of Parliament, but certainly when my right hon. friend stated that that was the intention of the clause I took him to mean, and I should have thought most people would have taken him to mean, to express the hope that that would be the effect of the clause. I certainly cannot admit that my right hon. friend in making that statement gave any pledge or promise whatever that the appointment of the teacher would remain in the hands of the denomination.

Then the most rev. Primate quoted a phrase which was used by my hon. friend Mr. Lough in the House of Commons, with regard to the teacher who was not qualified to give religious instruction. My hon. friend used a colloquial phrase, to the effect that the teacher would be "got rid of." It was explained, either the same night or the following night, that my hon. friend's colloquial phrase had been misunderstood. What he intended to convey was not that the teacher would be dismissed, but that he would be so far dismissed that he would not have to give the religious instruction, which would be given by someone else. The third discrepency to which the most rev. Primate alluded was that which has become well known in another place under the title of the "gap" in Clause 2,—that is to say, that although facilities have to be given in the schools that are taken over there is not an absolute assurance that a school will be taken over. Therefore, in stating that schools would receive facilities there is no doubt to be borne in mind the possibility that the school may not be taken over at all. The history of what occurred in another place is well known to noble Lords opposite. It was stated by my right hon. friend, and stated with perfect truth, that the local authorities might say, and would say, "We are obliged to take over the schools, but a considerable number of people are entitled to say 'Our schools shall not be taken.'" And that, in the view of the local authorities, would not represent fair play as between the two parties. The result of that is what is known as the bilateral scheme—that is to say, if those representing the owners were willing to have it provided that the school should be handed over, we in our turn were willing to provide that the school must be taken. That offer was not accepted in another place. Whether noble Lords would be disposed to accept it here I cannot say, but the circumstances are perfectly well known, and I really do not think the most rev. Primate has any great cause of complaint of us as to the manner in which we have dealt with that question.

I am afraid I must beg to be excused, so far as this evening is concerned, from replying categorically to a great number of questions which were put to me by the noble Marquess opposite, Lord Londonderry. These are all matters relating to individual clauses which, in my judgment, would be better dealt with as they arise in Committee. The noble and learned Lord who has just sat down, dealt at considerable length—at what I venture to call Committee length—with Clause 4. I hope he, too, will excuse me if I do not attempt at this hour to argue the case for Clause 4 as it stands. I merely wish to make this observation. The noble and learned Lord quoted a remark of my right hon. friend Mr. Morley, to the effect that it was intended to meet the case of non-Protestant churches, and he agreed, I think, that it met the case of the Roman Catholic Church, though we have had some complaints that it does not entirely do so.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: I said it had been stated that it was intended to meet the case of the Roman Catholic Church.

THE EARL OF CREWE: I had hoped that the noble and learned Lord spoke with some approval of it.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: I spoke only as to the benevolence of the intention.

THE EARL OF CREWE: I accept that as the only word of approbation we received from the noble and learned Lord in the course of his speech. He implied that it was no use at all to the Church of England. I think my right hon. friend was quite accurate in what he said. It is meant to be of use, and I think will be of use, to the Church of England so far as the Church of England is non-Protestant. My impression was that the Church of England was a Protestant Church and other things too, but, so far as it is non-Protestant, and so far as Anglicans are unwilling to receive the ordinary Protestant teaching which they can receive in the provided schools, and are not content with the minor facilities, I have no doubt that in a considerable number of cases Clause 4 will serve the needs of certain members of the Church of England who dislike and repudiate the title of Protestant. Then the noble and learned Lord said he could not do us a greater disservice than to help us pass the Bill as it stands. I do not advise the noble and learned Lord to be too sure of that. Will he try us? I hope we shall see some evidence of his willingness to allow the Bill to pass as it stands when we go through the various clauses in Committee.

I have no desire at this stage to discuss the debatable points of the Bill further, but there are two phrases which have often been used in the course of this discussion upon which I think it might be well to get a clear understanding so far as we can of our meaning. I refer to the two phrases "public control" and "no test for teachers." The noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition stated, I think, in his speech at Nottingham, that he was in favour of these two principles, and the noble Marquess, Lord Londonderry, in his speech on the Second Reading, made the same observation. And most gratifying observations to us they were. But perhaps it is important, before we show the complete exultation we would desire on hearing those statements, to know that what we mean by public control and by the absence of religious tests is the same as is meant by noble Lords opposite.

The noble Duke on the Cross Benches, the Duke of Devonshire, has an idea of his own upon popular control. He stated, in his exceedingly weighty speech on the Second Reading, that in his opinion the Act of 1902 was not a contravention of the principle of public control. That is to say, that in leaving the voluntary schools with four denominational managers against two appointed by the ratepayers, the principle of popular control was not contravened. That is a revival of a statement made by the noble Duke in the course of the debates in 1902. I remember various passages that took place between him and the noble Earl Lord Rosebery, and also, I think, between him and myself on this very point during the debates in 1902. The noble Duke's argument was this, that, so far as the ratepayers were concerned, they were represented by two managers; of the others, one might be considered to represent the subscribers and the local interest, and the remaining three, or at any rate two, must be taken as representing the State, because they were appointed under Parliamentary sanction by those who, for the time being, were His Majesty's advisers. At that time I took the opportunity of pointing out that, if that was so, it was obviously right that those two or three managers should go out with the Government.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I have no doubt that the noble Earl is quoting me correctly, but I must say I do not recognise my argument.

THE EARL OF CREWE: I think if the noble Duke will do me the favour of referring to the debate he will see that I am not misquoting him in any way. His argument was that the State, as represented by His Majesty's advisers for the time being, wanted denominational instruction in the schools, and the only way they could get it was by appointing these people to represent them. I am bound to say I thought at the time that the argument showed a most amazing dialectic subtlety, and I am not surprised at this distance of time that the noble Duke has not carried it with him. But I am sure that if he will refer to the debate and read his own speech he will see that I am not misquoting him in the slightest degree. I merely mention this statement for the purpose of saying that if that is the real public control which noble Lords opposite think sufficient we cannot agree with them, and that we therefore cannot understand the words in the same sense.

The only other point on which I have to say a word is that of religious tests, to which noble Lords opposite declare themselves equally opposed, and I hope I may be allowed to say in speaking of this subject that the most rev. Primate displayed, if possible, even more than his usual fairness of mind in dealing with it. In the debate on the Second Reading the noble Marquess, Lord Londonderry, said he could not see the difference between a test and a qualification, and that if a qualification to teach a subject was demanded, it was the same thing as applying a test. It seems to me that that is an argument which cannot be sustained. What is the definition of a test in this connection? It seems to me that a test is applied when an applicant for an appointment is asked what his religious views are, and the obtaining of the appointment depends upon the reply which he gives.

I might mention a possible parallel case. Supposing I desired to obtain a tenant for a farm. If, after having made the usual inquiries as to his farming capabilities and his possession of sufficient capital, I then proceeded to ask him if he held Liberal opinions, I should not attempt to conceal from myself that I was applying a political test. I might, of course, say that I considered it a necessary qualification for anybody who held a farm on my estate to be able to spread the Liberal faith in his parish. It would be a thing which I should have a perfect legal right to do although I think it would be a monstrously foolish thing to do. But I should not attempt to conceal from myself that I was applying a test. Consequently if noble Lords imagine that it is possible in any way before a teacher is appointed to find out whether he is a communicant of the Church of England, whether he is a Roman Catholic, or whether he is an Agnostic, and to make his appointment or non-appointment depend on his answer, if they think it is possible to do that without applying a test we differ from them *in toto*.

I can only conclude by saying that any Amendments which noble Lords place on the Paper will receive the closest attention from His Majesty's Government, and we shall weigh them with the respect which is due to Amendments emanating from the high quarters from which they come. Noble Lords may not think we have succeeded, but in drafting this Bill we have been actuated by a desire to do justice to all parties. It is hardly necessary, I think, for us to deny any intention of taking away any of the reasonable rights of the Church of England. I can only say of myself what I should say with equal confidence of my right hon. friend Mr. Birrell, that anything like intolerance or bigotry or the spirit of persecution is equally distasteful to us in whatever garb it appears. But I would add this, that in dealing with these Amendments we cannot agree to abandon the principles which we believe are held in this matter by the very great majority of our fellow countrymen, and which we have endeavoured as best we can to translate into legislation in a Bill which is coming again before your Lordships on Monday.

On Question, Motion to go into Committee agreed to.

House in Committee accordingly.

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Moved, That the House do resume—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee on Monday next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Twelve o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 25th October*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PETITIONS.*

### AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION BILL.

Petition from Ayr, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

### LABOUR TEST WORKERS (ENFRANCHISEMENT).

Petition from Carlisle, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

### SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Ealing, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### EAST INDIA (OFFICERS) (EXCHANGE COMPENSATION).

Return [presented 23rd October] to be printed. [No. 338.]

### MERCHANT SHIPPING (MERCANTILE MARINE FUND) ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council altering the Scale set out in the Second Schedule to the Act for the purpose of the levying of the Light Dues in pursuance of the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the months of August and September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### PENAL SERVITUDE ACT, 1891.

Copy presented, of Additional Regulation made by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland for the taking of Finger Prints and Measuring and Photographing of Prisoners [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (VENTILATION).

Copy presented, of Illustrations of Methods of Dust Extraction in Factories and Workshops, compiled by Commander Sir H. P. Freer-Smith, R.N. (late His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Council of the City of Cardiff, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Bootsellers' Shops within part of the Central Ward, within the Cathays, Park, Roath, and Adamstown (part of) Wards of the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of two Orders made by the Council of the County of Glamorgan, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the Coedffranc Parish and Maesteg Urban District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (INCLUDING TELEPHONES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd February; Mr. Sydney Buxton]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 339.]

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Copy presented, of Note explaining the Repeal Schedule [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### PRIVATE BILLS (LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL).

Return ordered, "of Expenses incurred by the London County Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament during the years 1903, 1904,1905, and, as far as possible, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [H.L.] No. 214, of Session 1903)."—*Mr. Thornton.*)

---

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Irish National Education Inspectors.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the desirability of framing new regulations for the position of inspector under the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, with a view to examinations by open competition in the future instead of the heretofore limited competitions governed by religious tests.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Appointments to inspectorships of national schools in Ireland rest with the Commissioners of National Education, who inform me that, under the system which has hitherto prevailed, inspectors have been appointed by limited competition amongst candidates nominated by the Commissioners, half of the staff consisting of Roman Catholics. Examinations for inspectorships have, however, been suspended for some years past, and the Commissioners have not yet made regulations for filling future vacancies beyond providing that teachers of exceptional ability and qualifications are eligible for appointment as sub-inspectors.

### Regent's Park Fence.

SIR. SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that many of the residents round Regent's Park are adverse to the substitution of an iron spiked fence in place of the present one of oak timber, as being likely to destroy the present rural character of the park; and whether he will stop the work now in progress and allow the timber fence to remain as it is at present.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) I am aware that many of the residents round Regent's Park object to the substitution of an iron fence for the oak one. I regret that I am unable to stop the work and allow the timber fence to remain, because it is in a state of decay and past repair.

### Recruitment of Native Labour in South-East Africa.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Portuguese authorities for South-east Africa have declined to give the same facilities for recruiting native labour in their territories to the Robinson group of mines as are given to the Native Labour Association; and, if so, what steps His Majesty's Government are taking in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Unexpected delays of a renewed and protracted character have arisen in the settlement of this matter. But His Majesty's Government is now communicating directly with the Portuguese Government with a view to securing for the Robinson group of mines the necessary facilities.

### Orange River Colony Constitution.

MR. MACKARNESS: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government have yet decided upon the form of constitution to be granted to the Orange River Colony, and when the nature of it will be made public.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The various important questions connected with the granting of a constitution to the Orange River Colony are now being considered in the light of the Report of the Ridgeway Committee which has lately been submitted to His Majesty's Government. No definite statement can be made as to the date of any declaration of policy, but Lord Elgin is not without hopes that this may take place before Parliament separates for the Christmas holiday.

### Alleged Immorality of Chinese Coolies in South Africa.

MR. MACKARNESS: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an inquiry has been held by the Transvaal Government into the allegations of immorality practised among the Chinese coolies in the gold mines; and, if so, when the results of that inquiry will be laid before the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) A confidential inquiry has been held by the Transvaal Government. The Report has reached this country within the last few days, and the Secretary of State has not yet been able to give it the consideration it requires; and I am not able to say at present whether he will determine to lay it before the House.

### Glastonbury Abbey.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been called to the projected sale of Glastonbury Abbey; and whether he can give the House an assurance that the question will be considered by his Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative; the matter is receiving my careful attention, the Acting Inspector of Ancient Monuments having visited the Abbey on my behalf during the last few days.

### Rosyth.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when he will be in a position to state the policy of the Government with regard to Rosyth.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I do not anticipate that I shall be in a position to make any statement on this subject during the present year.

### Cost of Insurance against Workmen's Compensation.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now furnish the information promised by him showing what will be the estimated additional cost of insurance in the coal, ironstone, mining, engineering, shipbuilding, and textile industries respectively, resulting from the reduction of the qualifying period in Clause 1 of the Workmen's Compensation

Bill from fourteen to three days; and if he can also give the cost of reduction from fourteen to three days.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The following are the estimates which have been put before me of the additional cost which would result, in the industries mentioned, from the reduction of the qualifying period of fourteen days to seven or three days; but various reasons, in particular the great uncertainty existing as to the cost of the increased supervision which may be necessary and the difference between different branches of the same industry in respect of gravity and frequency of accidents, make it difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at any trustworthy conclusions. Except where otherwise specified, they include the estimated increase in administrative expenses.

| | Reduction of 14 days to 3 days. | Reduction of 14 days to 7 days. |
|---|---|---|
| Coal mining - - - - | 25 to 38 per cent. (Not including increase in administrative expenses) | 12 to 17 per cent. (Not including increase in administrative expenses) |
| Ironstone mining - - - | 18 per cent. | 8 per cent. |
| Engineering - - - - | 48 per cent. | 25½ per cent. |
| Shipbuilding - - - - | 38¾ per cent. | 21½ per cent. |
| Textile industries - - - | 35* per cent. | 30* per cent. |

* The figures on which the estimate for the textile industry is based do not, I understand, include fatal accidents. If fatal accidents were included this estimate would, of course, be lessened.

I may mention, as showing the varying nature of such estimates, that in the case of certain coalfields in one part of the country I have received an estimate according to which the increase in cost resulting from the reduction of fourteen days to three would be almost 80 per cent.

### Dock Regulations.

MR. WILKIE (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that as yet no adequate steps have been taken to confirm the dock regulations, with respect to ladders down ships holds, the unshipping of fore and afters, and the removal of deck winches from close up to ships combings where ladders are situated; and, if so, will he take the necessary steps to enforce the rule dealing with these questions; also when the necessary increase of the present staff of inspectors will be made in order to deal effectively with the regulations now in many cases ignored so far as the discharging and loading of vessels is concerned owing to the lack of supervision.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) As I pointed out to the hon. Member in Answer to a previous Question on the subject last May,† numbers 6 and 8 of the dock regulations, which are the regulations dealing with the points mentioned in the Question, do not, so far as they require structural alterations, come into force till 1st January, 1908. I have no power, therefore, before that date to compel the adoption of such alterations, though it is reported to me by the inspectors that material improvement has already been effected in regard to the matters in question. In accordance with the promise made by me, the staff is being strengthened with a view to ensuring better inspection of docks.

### Lyningham-with-Filgrave School.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Local Education Authority decided, in the early part of this year, that the provided school at Lyningham with-Filgrave, in the county of Buckinghamshire, was unnecessary, and ought to be closed, and that the Board of Education on 20th February, 1906, concurred in that decision after considering all the circumstances of the case, including a petition from the inhabitants, and that the school was accordingly closed; whether he will explain why the Board of Education has now reversed its decision and called upon the local authority to reopen the school, and has refused to receive a deputation from the local authority on the matter; whether he is aware that there are not more than a dozen children of school age in the village, and that there is an efficient provided school within a mile and a half; and whether there are any other facts conflicting with the decision of the local authority that the school cannot be efficiently or economically maintained.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 407.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The facts of the case are very much as stated in the Question. The decision of the Board that the school must be reopened was chiefly based upon representations made to them as to the effect which the closure of small rural schools such as this would have upon the depopulation of rural areas, a consideration of which, I am sure, the hon. Member will readily admit the urgency and importance. At the same time I fully appreciate the considerations which have determined the action of the local authority, and I am having further inquiries made upon the spot with a view to finding some solution of the question.

### Cost of Railway Commissioners' Appeals.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that dissatisfaction has arisen amongst traders on account of the delay and expense attending an appeal to the Railway Commissioners; and whether he will consider the advisability of establishing a cheaper and more expeditious tribunal in connection with the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer which was given in a similar Question put by him on 9th July last.†

### Railway and Shipping Transit Rates.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Railway Companies and Shipping Companies compel consignors of goods and live stock to sign an owner's risk rate which practically absolves the carrying companies from liability, and contracts the consignor outside the benefit of the Carriers Act unless an extra rate is paid: and whether he will inquire into this alleged grievance, and also the existing system of classification.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George*): I am not aware that consignors of goods and live stock carried by rail and sea are, or can be, compelled to sign a risk note to the effect described by the hon. Member; but if he will furnish particulars I will consider them, as also any observations he may have to offer as to the classification of traffic.

### Kent Licensing Compensation Case.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the judgment of Mr. Justice Kennedy in the test case of Ashby's Cobham Brewery Company *v.* The Inland Revenue ("The Crown" public house, Cobham, Kent), in which the amount of compensation under The Licensing Act, 1904, fixed by the Inland Revenue at £455, was altered and fixed at £1,497 10s.; and whether in view of the effect this will have upon licensing authorities in recommending licensed houses for extinction, His Majesty's Government will direct an appeal to be made to a higher court of justice to reverse this judgment.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. His Majesty's Government do not propose to give directions for an appeal, as they are advised that as the law at present stands under the terms of The Licensing Act, 1904, an appeal could not succeed; but the matter is one which will not be left out of sight in connection with the proposals for legislation in regard to licensing which they have already undertaken to introduce.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clx., 492.

### Officers for the Indian Army.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the contemplated increase of British officers to Indian regiments, he will consider the desirability of placing some commissions in the Indian Army at the disposal of the War Office for distribution among subalterns serving in regiments stationed in Great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley*) The question of opening the Indian Army to officers serving in British units in any quarter of the Empire is under consideration, and I am waiting for the opinion of the Government of India on it.

### Irish Estates Commissioners' Report.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the last published Report of the Estates Commissioners; and whether in view of the important points of policy dealt with therein, and the difference of opinion among the Commissioners, any opportunity will be given to this House, during the Autumn Sitting, of discussing the Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) My attention has been called to the Report in question. The Government are not aware that any necessity exists for a discussion of the contents of the Report during the present sittings, which are intended for bringing to completion the legislative business of the year. Any Question regarding the business of the House had better be addressed to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it was in consequence of special instructions issued by himself or with his authority, that the Estates Commissioners, in their Report upon the working of the Land Act of 1903, for the year ending 31st March, 1906, have expressed their views on questions of price and security in such a way as to discourage sales and create dissatisfaction in the minds of those who have already purchased their farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer is in the negative, and I may add that, so far as my information goes, there is no foundation for the suggestion that sales have been discouraged or dissatisfaction created among tenant-purchasers as the result of the Estates Commissioners' Report.

### Loans on Irish Land Purchase Agreements.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the total amount of the advances applied for in connection with purchase agreements lodged under the Land Act of 1903; the amount of advances sanctioned to date; the amount at present available for completing sales; and what further amount, if any, it is proposed to raise before the end of the present year.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The total amount of advances applied for up to 20th instant is, in round numbers, £45,000,000. The amount which has been sanctioned and advanced is £14,292,284. The amount immediately available for further advances is approximately £2,908,000. It is anticipated that this amount will be sufficient to meet advances up to the end of the present year.

### Purchase Agreement Delays.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the delay in sanctioning advances under the Land Act of 1903 in cases in which purchase agreements have been lodged is occasioning hardship to those concerned, and is likely to discourage sales and hinder the progress of land purchase; whether he can state how far this delay is due to insufficiency of funds in the hands of the Land Commission; and what steps are being taken to raise the money required.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the amount of advances applied for and not yet made is about £30,000,000. The amount at present available for advances is approximately £2,908,000, and the Estates Commissioners anticipate that this amount will have been utilised early in the coming year. I understand that the intention, when the Act was passed, was that not more than £5,000,000 should be made available for land purchase during each of the first three years, and, as I have already pointed out, this amount has been exceeded. The delay in making advances has not been due to the insufficiency of funds at the disposal of the Land Commission, but rather to the extremely complicated nature of the operations connected with the sale and purchase of land, which has involved a great expenditure of time.

### Cavalry Regiment in Scotland.

Major ANSTRUTHER GRAY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to deprive Scotland of the Cavalry regiment which has hitherto been quartered in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This question is under consideration. The ultimate decision must depend, not on local considerations, but on requirements of training and efficiency which concern the Army as a whole. Whether arrangements can be made which will admit of Cavalry training at Edinburgh sufficient to comply with the high standard of to-day remains to be seen. The present decision turns simply on the fact that Piershill Barracks, the only available accommodation, are, from a sanitary point of view, no longer a proper place in which to house a cavalry regiment.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Naval Officers' Debts.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the proposed Order in Council, of which notice has been given by the Privy Council Office with reference to naval officers' half-pay and retired pay being liable to abatement to meet mess debts or other similar debts or liabilities, is intended to cover any civil debts; and whether the Order in Council will clearly define the nature of the debts which the Admiralty are seeking power to pay out of the pensions or pay earned by naval officers.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee): The Order in Council is sought in order to obtain power to recover debts of a semi-public nature, incurred under Service arrangements of which the Admiralty take official cognisance, and not ordinary civil debts. The Admiralty are advised that the terms used cannot be construed to bear a wider significance, and no necessity is therefore seen for a stricter definition than that contained in the memorial. The powers which it is sought to obtain are similar to those already possessed by the War Office in respect of regimental debts.

### H.M.S. "Montagu."

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, considering the abandonment of H.M.S. "Montagu," and the preparations and programmes of Foreign Powers, he has any announcement to make to the House with respect to the shipbuilding programme or naval policy of the Government, as stated by him in July last.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer is in the negative.

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Is it not intended to make any statement?

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Not as at present advised.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) asked whether there was to be no opportunity of discussing this question, seeing that it had arisen subsequent to the passing of the Estimates.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The only announcement of the policy of the Admiralty subsequent to the passing of the Estimates is the policy affecting the Home Fleet, and it is not touched by this question.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that the loss of the ship was subsequent to the discussion of the Estimates. The decision of the Government not to replace a lost ship was not in accordance with usual precedent, and the event had occurred subsequent to the discussion of the Estimates. In these circumstances, was the House not to have an opportunity of considering this matter?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Not to my knowledge.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Then I appeal to the Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman speaks of "this matter," but gives a confused view of what the matter is. Is it a discussion on the whole naval policy of the Government?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, but the replacing of a vessel that has been lost.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not think that an individual point of that kind is a matter which requires a special discussion.

### South African Stores Commission Report—Dismissal of Soldiers.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if the non-commissioned officers who have been dismissed the Army on the Report of the South African Stores Commission were first placed upon their trial, and afforded an opportunity of defending themselves; if they were warned by the Royal Commissioners that their answers would be used against them; if they have been deprived of the medals awarded them for service in the field; and, in such case, what authority there is for such procedure.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): This Question appears to rest on a misapprehension. The Question is one of discipline in which the Army Council have a large measure of discretion. As a matter of fact the utmost pains were taken not only to investigate fully each case, but to secure that the persons concerned had full opportunity of giving their own explanation. In every instance the officer, commissioned or non-commissioned, had placed before him by the Army Council the portion of the Report of the Royal Commission relating to his case for purposes of enabling him to make such statement as he desired as regards the questions in which he was involved. The merits of these statements were carefully weighed in connection with the evidence before any decision was come to. The procedure by court-martial, even if it had been appropriate, would have been inapplicable, because under Section 161 of the Army Act nearly all the offences were not cognisable by court-martial, as they were alleged to have taken place more than three years ago. The Act, in appointing the Royal Commission, did not excuse a witness from answering any question on the ground that the answer might incriminate him, nor on the other hand did it provide that cognisance should not be taken of the nature of his reply when his superior officer was estimating his conduct. No one has been dismissed the Army or otherwise dealt with excepting on evidence which appeared to the Secretary of State and the Army Council clear and distinct, and I am satisfied that what has been done has been done in accordance with the principles of justice, and that the benefit of any reasonable doubt has been given in every case. Art. 1256 (c) Pay Warrant prescribes that soldiers discharged the service for misconduct shall forfeit their medals.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will not the right hon. Gentleman reconsider the cases of men who have shown meritorious conduct in face of the enemy in the field? [Cries of "No."]

MR. HALDANE: When the charge is one of taking money and where that has been established, it is our duty to proceed with severity in the interests of the Army and the nation. I may say that I have divided the cases into three categories—those where money was alleged to have been taken; those in which there was incompetence; and those where there was an honest mistake in judgment. The cases in the first category have been dealt with strictly. The persons coming in the second class have been relieved of their positions; but we felt that we ought to treat them leniently in other respects. As to the third class, where an honest mistake has been made in difficult circumstances, we have proceeded quite differently.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): Why was a distinction made between officers and privates—the officers being allowed retiring allowances and the men being refused deferred pay?

Mr. HALDANE: No such distinction was made. Wherever an officer was found to have received money, he was dismissed from the Army without retired pay. The only officers who have not forfeited what they had earned in the shape of deferred pay are those against whom no charge of corruption was proved.

Mr. DALZIEL: Have not officers been asked to retire and been allowed a retiring allowance?

Mr. HALDANE: Yes, where there was no allegation of corruption, but only a breach of regulations or incompetence. In no case has an officer touching money been allowed to keep his retiring allowance.

Mr. DALZIEL: Does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that all the privates dismissed were guilty of corruption?

Mr. HALDANE: Every one of them.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT asked whether the Royal Commission granted any certificates of indemnity in cases where the witnesses gave full answers.

Mr. HALDANE: No doubt they did, but such certificates protect against criminal proceedings and have nothing to do with the duty of the Army Council to see that improper persons do not remain in the service of the Crown.

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) asked whether any proceedings had been taken against the South African firms who engaged in this bribery.

Mr. HALDANE: Within a few hours of the issue of the Report I read it through, and within a few more hours I had mastered the evidence and communicated with the Treasury Solicitor. The whole of the papers were with the Treasury Solicitor in two days, with instructions from me to proceed with the utmost diligence. The Treasury Solicitor has the matter in hand, and the case is before the Law Officers of the Crown both here and in South Africa. Every step has been taken that could be taken. I can say no more than that I have done everything to bring everyone to justice, without dealing with the matter in a vindictive spirit on the one hand or with undue leniency on the other.

In Answer to Viscount Valentia (Oxford),

Mr. HALDANE said that any officer discharged for misconduct forfeited his pension. A court-martial was not possible in these cases because of the interval that had elapsed.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman reconsider the matter in the case of the men who have shown gallantry in the field? [Loud cries of "No, no."]

### Defence of London.

*Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War at what date the building of the now dismantled forts around London was sanctioned, and what has been the total cost of these forts.

Mr. HALDANE: It is presumed that this Question refers to the mobilisation centres round London, some of which are in the form of redoubts. These were begun in 1889. Their total cost amounted to £160,700.

### Pimlico Army Clothing Factory.

Mr. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether an official intimation was conveyed to the women employed in the Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico that a reduction in prices would take place equal in amount to a loss in the wages of the tailoresses of from 4s. to 5s. per week; if so, will he state why an official denial of the same has been allowed to be communicated to the Press; and whether the enforcement of the reduction named will be withheld till an interview has taken place between the representatives of the Government and the employees concerned.

Mr. HALDANE: No official intimation has been given to the workers in the Royal Army Clothing Factory that a reduction in prices would take place as suggested in the Question. A fortnight's notice will be given of any reduction which it may be intended to make, and full opportunity will be given to the workers to interview the representatives of the Government on the matter.

Mr. SUMMERBELL asked if the right hon. Gentleman would inquire how such information was communicated to the Press? Was it done by any official of his Department?

Mr. HALDANE: I have no reason to think so, but I will inquire.

### Cowley Barracks Engineman.

Mr. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Henry Drake, formerly engineman in the barracks at Oxford, who, after serving the War Department for more than twenty-nine years, during which time he worked the machinery every day, Sundays included, without absence from duty for a single day through sickness or any other cause, was recently discharged both from his home and his employment with less than two weeks previous notice, and with no reason assigned; whether by the rules of the service such a man is entitled to any pension or superannuation, or only to consideration for a gratuity; and, whether, in view of this man's length of service and consistent good conduct as testified by five commanding officers under whom he served, and of the hardship he has suffered through the suddenness of his discharge, the question of giving him some adequate compensation by way of gratuity or otherwise will be considered.

Mr. HALDANE: Mr. Drake was employed as engineman at Cowley Barracks, Oxford, from the 9th January 1877 to the 13th instant. An engineman's services being no longer required, Mr. Drake was given a fortnight's notice of discontinuance in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Regulations for Civilian Subordinates. He has been awarded a gratuity of £53 13s. 0d.

### Southern Nigeria—Hausa Grievances.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what answer has been sent to the petition of the Hausa population of the Colony of Lagos, Southern Nigeria, praying that they may not be evicted from their homes to make room for a military recreation ground; and whether he is aware that the population referred to consists chiefly of ex-soldiers and the widows, wives, children, relatives, and descendants of soldiers of His Majesty, who have been in undisturbed possession of their present homes for forty-one years, and that there is ground for their fear that the Hausa Lands Ordinance of August 1906 will entail homelessness, destitution, and hardship on the old people who have spent many years in loyal service of the King and His Majesty's Government.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): It is understood that a petition of the tenor indicated has been handed to the Governor of Southern Nigeria for transmission to the Secretary of State; but it has not yet reached the Colonial Office. The matter has been very carefully considered and, with the arrangements which have been made for compensation, there is no reason to think that any one will suffer hardship through this removal which is necessary on sanitary grounds.

### Newfoundland.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Newfoundland Government was consulted and its adherence obtained to the provisional agreement entered into between His Majesty's Government and that of the United States with reference to the Newfoundland fisheries.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Newfoundland Government were, of course, consulted before any negotiations were begun and were fully informed of their progress at each stage. His Majesty's Government were not, however, so fortunate as to obtain their adherence to the provisional agreement which circumstances rendered necessary.

Mr. ASHLEY: Is it not usual in the case of self-governing colonies to get their consent to provisional agreements?

MR. CHURCHILL: Matters which affect the interpretation of Imperial treaties should form the subject of Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

### Orange River Colony Juries.

MR. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the address of the Chief Justice of the Orange River Colony to the conference of magistrates assembled at Bloemfontein late in September, in which address the Chief Justice took occasion publicly to repudiate the allegations, to which the widest publicity had been given in the Press in this country, that juries in the Orange River Colony were biassed by racial prejudice, and particularly to his declaration that the statements on this subject were absolutely false from beginning to end, and that it was a gross libel on the jurymen of the Colony, who never in a single case in his experience or in the experience of Mr. Justice Fawkes or Mr. Justice Ward allowed nationality to interfere with their duty; and what action he proposes to take.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have seen the address of the Chief Justice of the Orange River Colony as reported in the Johannesburg *Star* of 25th September to which the hon. Member draws attention. No action on the part of the Secretary of State seems to be called for in the present circumstances by anonymous publication in newspapers or comment thereupon, but Lord Elgin has noted with satisfaction the testimony borne by the Bench to the impartiality and decorum of the jurymen of the Orange River Colony.

### British Indians in Natal.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any and, if so, what steps are being taken to promote the interests of British Indians resident in Natal, who, being ratepayers, desire the municipal franchise.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Natal Parliament has passed a Bill which debars those persons excluded from the Parliamentary franchise under Act 8 of 1896 from exercising the municipal franchise, unless exempted from the operation of the Act by an Order from the Governor in Council. The persons so debarred are persons who, not being of European origin, are natives or descendants in the male line of natives of countries which have not hitherto possessed elective representative institutions founded on the Parliamentary franchise. This Bill is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

### The Address to the Late Russian Duma.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was in consequence of any representations made by him, or at his instance, that the contemplated visit to Russia of a deputation, composed of Members of this House and others, to present an address to the late Russian Duma was abandoned; whether he has received any representations, verbal or otherwise, on behalf of the Russian Government on the subject; and, if so, what was the purport of those representations.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The proposed deputation was quite independent of His Majesty's Government, and I can say nothing about it. The Russian Government were aware of this, and made no official representations respecting it.

MR. CLAUDE HAY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had made any representation to the Gentlemen who were to compose the deputation.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I regarded the deputation as quite independent of His Majesty's Government, and therefore I took no official action whatever in respect to it. If the hon. Gentleman desires to know more about the deputation I think it ought to be ascertained from the Members themselves.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) asked whether the British Ambassador had informed him that the address, signed by 300 Members of the House of Commons, had been welcomed with gratitude in all parts of Russia; and whether there was not evidence that the mere intention of presenting the address had strengthened the good feeling of the people of Russia towards this country.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have not been associated with the deputation in any way, or with the address; and I have no official information in regard to it. I think it is desirable, when the Government have not been connected with a particular matter, that they should not be expected, save in exceptional circumstances, to express any opinion about it.

### The Eighty Club and Austro-Hungary.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any written or other representations have been made to him either by the British Embassy in Vienna, or by the representatives of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in England as to the recent official visit of a deputation of the Eighty Club to certain political organisations in Hungary.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer is in the negative.

### Russia and the Aland Islands.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can now say whether Russian troops are still in occupation of the Aland Islands.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The latest information is to the effect that the Russian troops sent to the Aland Islands have been withdrawn, with the exception of two officers and fifteen men.

### Chinese Maritime Customs.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state whether the conditions under which the administration of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs were granted by China during the currency of the Chinese loans of 1896 and 1898 are being duly observed.

SIR EDWARD GREY: When the loans of 1896 and 1898 were raised, the Chinese Government undertook that the administration of the Maritime Customs should remain as then constituted during the currency of the loans. By the Imperial Edict of May 9th last, the Customs administration was transferred from one Chinese Government Department to another, but this does not necessarily imply more than a change of form, and it has not so far made any difference to the administration of the Customs service by Sir R. Hart.

### Income Tax.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution passed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, at Bristol, on the 11th ultimo, regretting that nothing had been done by the Departmental Committee on Income Tax to remove the unsatisfactory features in the law and practice as they now exist, and expressing the opinion that the time has arrived when the whole of the Income Tax Acts should be reconsidered and codified; will he say whether he will give consideration to the views expressed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I have received a copy of a resolution, passed at the meeting referred to, to the effect that the meeting was of opinion that the time had arrived when the whole of the Income Tax Acts should be reconsidered and codified, and I have replied that this expression of opinion should have my careful attention.

### Estate Duty Office.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the increase in the staff at the Estate Duty Office in Somerset House during the past six years; will he explain why the staff, which numbered 194 in 1899–1900, when the revenue was £16,159,463, was increased each year until it reached 390 in the Estimates for 1906–7, the revenue for 1905–6 being only £14,880,616, and the average revenue for the six years £14,985,357; and will he explain why the staff has been more than doubled, notwithstanding that the work of the Department, as represented by revenue, has been diminished.

MR. ASQUITH: The staff of the Estate Duty Office has been increased to the extent indicated because the Board of Inland Revenue satisfied the Treasury that such increase was necessary if the work of the Department was to be performed with thoroughness and promptitude. It may be observed (1) that the amount of revenue collected is by no means an exact measure of the amount of work to be performed; the general tendency of the yield of the Estate Duties is certainly not downwards, although it is true that 1899–1900 was a record year; and (2) that, although the numbers have been increased by 100 per cent., the increase of cost is only a trifle over 50 per cent.

### Motor Buses and Side Slips.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board whether he is aware that motor buses in wet weather are not under the control of their drivers owing to side slips; and whether, under these circumstances, he proposes to withdraw the licences of these vehicles seeing the number of accidents caused therefrom, and the danger arising to the public.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. I am aware that in certain states of the pavement due control over these vehicles can be exercised only by great care and skill on the part of the drivers on account of the tendency to side slip. Inventions are now being tried which it is hoped may provide a remedy or at any rate reduce the danger. I do not think it would be within the power of the Commissioner to withdraw all motor omnibus licences on the ground suggested. A general prohibition of the use of motor omnibuses would require the authority of Parliament.

MR. MARKHAM asked whether no further licences would be granted until the vehicles could be run under conditions of greater safety.

*MR. GLADSTONE said the Department was now doing their utmost to secure greater safety. He was not prepared to say anything more at present.

### The Soap Combine.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received information that 15-ounce packets of soap, made up by firms in the Soap Trust in the form in which one-pound packets were formerly made, are being sold without any reduction in price; and whether, for the protection of the public, he will direct the attention of the inspectors of weights and measures to the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have no official information on this subject and I do not gather that the packets are or ever were sold as one-pound packets. There would appear therefore to be no ground for any action on my part. I notice, however, in the Press this morning a statement to the effect that the manufacture of 15 ounce tablets have been abandoned and that the tablets are now being made of full one-pound weight.

MR. CLAUDE HAY asked whether any of the soap used in the House of Commons was supplied by the Soap Trust.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid that the question of soap does not in any way come within the province of my Department.

### The German Gipsy Invasion.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the wanderings throughout Great Britain of a band of sixty German gipsies, admitted under his authority in the spring as desirable immigrants, and in defiance of the provisions of the Aliens Act; and if, having regard to the expense caused to local authorities by repelling their invasion and harrying them onwards, he will forthwith arrange for their deportation to the lands whence they came.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth): At the same time may I ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that some 300 German and other gipsies were allowed to land in Scotland in the spring of the present year, that they have since been wandering about the country to the annoyance and danger of every district in which they have stayed and causing considerable extra police expenditure in order to control their movements; and whether the Government proposes to take any steps in order that these undesirable aliens shall be repatriated and a repetition of this grievance prevented in the future.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have already explained how a considerable number of alien gipsies—it is believed between seventy and eighty—landed in Scotland in the early part of this year. It is incorrect to say that they were admitted as desirable immigrants, and still more so to say that they were admitted in defiance of the Aliens Act. There was no question of admission. They came in small parties on non-immigrant ships, and the Aliens Act, therefore, imposed no restriction on their landing. I have also stated how I brought pressure to bear on the shipping company which was carrying these aliens, with the result of stopping their further arrival. As regards those now in the country, the Aliens Act gives me no power save as regards any individual case in which a certificate has been given by a Court under Section 3. One certificate recommending the expulsion of one of these aliens has been received.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked whether the alien gipsies were not now wandering about without ostensible means of subsistence, contrary to the provisions of the Aliens Act.

*MR. GLADSTONE said his hon. friend must know quite well that this was not a question for the Home Office, but for any magistrate before whom the aliens might be brought.

MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would consider the question of introducing an Amendment of the Aliens Act so as to deal with this particular annoyance.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) asked if there was anything in connection with these gipsies which placed them outside the laws of Christian hospitality.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT asked if the local authorities would be recouped the expense they had been put to by these gipsies.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table particulars of the expenses incurred?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I will inquire into that.

### Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has asked for and obtained a report of the refusal by the Thornbury Bench of Magistrates to grant a certificate for exemption from vaccination to Mr. Alfred Williams on 18th July last; and whether he will furnish a copy of such report; and what further action he proposes to take.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I communicated with the Justices in August last, and was informed that a certificate of exemption was refused because the Justices were not satisfied that the applicant conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child. In these circumstances I regret that I have no power to take any further action. It would be contrary to practice to give a copy of a letter from magistrates to the Secretary of State.

### Staple Hill Colliery.

MR. RENDALL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a petition handed him from the inhabitants of Staple Hill and Mangotsfield, Gloucestershire, setting forth the danger to life, limb, health, and property which is the result of the proceedings of the Staple Hill Colliery Company, Limited; and whether, having regard to the fact that the inhabitants of the neighbourhood have been excited by increasing fears of what may happen, and there is grave danger of a breach of the peace, he will cause inquiries to be made with a view to a prosecution if deemed necessary.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have had under consideration the petition referred to in the Question and have obtained a report from the Inspector of Mines as to the mining operations that are being carried on by this company. The proceedings of which complaint is made in the petition appear to be outside the jurisdiction possessed by me under the Mines Regulation Acts; but I am making further inquiries into the matter, and will communicate later with the hon. Member.

### Berne Convention and Yellow Phosphorus.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state on what grounds the British delegate to the Convention of Berne declined to sign the treaty prohibiting the use of yellow phosphorus in the manufacture of matches; whether this treaty has been signed by the representatives of France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands; and, if so, whether, in view of the risks involved in the handling of yellow phosphorus, His Majesty's Government will follow the example of these seven countries and adhere to the treaty.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Convention prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches was signed by the representatives of the countries mentioned in the Question. The grounds which led His Majesty's Government to instruct the delegates to abstain from signing the Convention do not admit of being stated within the compass of an Answer, but they will be fully explained in papers which I shall shortly lay upon the Table of the House.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the withdrawal of the British delegates from the International Labour Conference at Berne during the discussion of the proposed interdiction of white phosphorus in match factories; whether he gave orders for such withdrawal; and if not, what action, if any, he proposes to take to bring the views of his Department upon the subject before the nations represented at the Conference.

*MR GLADSTONE: My hon. friend has been misinformed. The British delegates did not withdraw from the Conference when the proposal to prohibit the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches was under discussion. On the contrary, they stated fully the views of the British Government on the subject.

### Motor Car Traffic.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a letter, dated 13th July, by the Commissioner of Police, in which this officer stated that, owing to the weight of public opinion, he intended to exercise more stringently his powers and to show less indulgence to owners of motor cars who broke the law in respect to petrol smoke, noise, and speed; whether he has at any time given the Commissioner of Police a discretional power in this matter; and, if not, will he instruct this officer that his duties are to administer the law as enacted by Parliament.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware of the letter referred to by the hon. Member. It seems to me that the Commissioner of Police is bound to administer such powers as he possesses with discretion, and that in the early days of motor cars defects might be condoned which if found at a later date to be avoidable would properly cause the withdrawal of the licence. I agree with Sir Edward Henry's view that the circumstances now call for a more stringent enforcement of the law.

MR. MARKHAM: This Answer was given six months ago.

*MR. GLADSTONE: No.

MR. MARKHAM: Well, the letter was written six months ago.

### Traction Engine Traffic.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing numbers of traction engines pass through the streets of the metropolis at night, shaking the houses and disturbing the sleep of the people, he will say why the police do not prosecute the owners of such engines, seeing that Section 13 of the Locomotive Act of 186 enacts that no locomotive shall be used upon a highway as to cause a public nuisance.

*MR. GLADSTONE: It is not the practice of the police to take proceedings in the case of a nuisance of this kind. The matter is usually left to the persons aggrieved, or to their representatives, such as the borough council, which has power to take action under the section referred to.

### Royal Commission on Vivisection.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Royal Commission on Vivisection is to be enlarged by the addition of one or more medical men who are known anti-vivisectionists; whether he has been approached by representatives of the anti-vivisection movement with a view to so enlarging the Commission; and whether it is the intention that the proceedings of the Commission shall be open to the public and the Press.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have received and considered a certain number of representations, but I do not propose to enlarge the Commission, which is, in my opinion, fairly constituted as regards all parties interested. It is for the Commission to decide whether their proceedings should be public, and they have, I see, informed the Press this morning that they have decided to sit in private, but to supply copies of the evidence from time to time to certain representative bodies interested in the inquiry.

Mr. O'GRADY asked whether it was not the fact that the majority of the Commissioners believed in vivisection.

*Mr. GLADSTONE replied that out of ten Commissioners four, including two distinguished medical men, were suggested to him by anti-vivisection societies.

Mr. LUPTON asked whether it was not the case that there were three expert vivisectionists on the Commission, and no expert anti-vivisectionists at all?

*Mr. GLADSTONE replied that he did not know what his hon. friend meant by "expert anti-vivisectionist," but in the constitution of the Commission great care was taken to secure that all sides should be represented.

Mr. O'GRADY: Will the right hon. Gentleman give the names of the Commissioners recommended by the Anti-Vivisection Society.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: No, Sir, I cannot do that.

### The Case of Miss Pankhurst.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Home Secretary whether his attention has been called to the case of Miss Pankhurst, who was on Wednesday sent to prison for fourteen days at Westminster Police Court for alleged disorderly conduct; and whether, seeing that the only evidence against her was the uncorroborated testimony of a single policeman, while three women who were called to give evidence for the defence contradicted the policeman's statements in every essential particular, he would give instructions for her immediate release.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have read in the papers what happened, and since receiving the hon. Gentleman's letter giving notice of the Question I have directed inquiries to be made as to the facts of the case.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE intimated that he would repeat the Question on Monday.

### Alleged Ill-treatment of Ship Apprentices.

Mr. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has now completed his inquiries into the complaint made to him that four lads who, by apprentice indentures, became apprentices to Messrs. Gibson and Clark, of Glasgow, and in July, 1905, joined the ship "The Pass of Killiecrankie," were on the voyage from Antwerp to Los Angelos treated with cruelty by the second officer, that proper medical attendance was not afforded, that sufficient and proper food was not supplied, that the captain neglected to properly supervise his under officers, that the log-book is defective, and that the master's reports are incorrect; and can he state what action the Board of Trade is taking in the matter.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): The case to which the hon. Member calls attention is still engaging the careful attention of the Board of Trade; but as the ship "Pass of Killiecrankie" has not yet returned to this country, it has not yet been possible to obtain all the necessary information. The case has been referred to the Public Prosecutor, who will advise whether legal proceedings can be taken as soon as he is in a position to do so.

### Berlin Conference on Wireless Telegraphy.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General when he will be able to lay a Report of the proceedings of the Berlin Conference on Wireless Telegraphy upon the Table of this House; and whether he will arrange to afford an opportunity for discussing the action of the representatives of His Majesty's Government at that Conference.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The Conference has not yet completed its labours, and I am not, therefore, in a position to answer the Question of the hon. Member. Perhaps he will repeat it at a later date.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Shall we have an opportunity of discussing this subject before the end of the session?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked for notice of the Question.

### Betting in Post Offices.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he proposes to put down Amendments to the Street Betting Bill by which betting in post offices, whether by telegraph or otherwise, would be prohibited.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Betting by the Post Office staff is regarded as a serious offence, entailing liability to dismissal. I do not intend to put down any Amendments to the Street Betting Bill.

### Stoke-on-Trent Post Office.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has caused inquiry to be made into the accommodation provided for the staff and the performance of their duties at the Stoke-on-Trent Post Office; whether any report has been made as the result of such inquiry; and what action, if any, he proposes to take to meet the immediate needs of the locality.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: A new office is to be provided at Stoke-on-Trent, and I am endeavouring to expedite the settlement of the case, for I know from personal observation how much they are required. It is essential that the office should be close to the railway station and the negotiations with the railway company have unfortunately been somewhat protracted.

### Putrid Meat at Smithfield.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that between 19th July, 1906, and 13th September, 1906, 418 tons of meat were seized and condemned at Smithfield Market, 395 tons of which were described as putrid; what proportion of this meat came from the United States and the Argentine Republic respectively; what system of inspection is in operation at Smithfield Market; how many officials are engaged upon the work; and whether the inspections are made periodically or merely on the occasions of surprise visits.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am aware of the facts stated in the first part of the Question. Of the 418 tons of meat referred to, about 24 tons came from the United States and about 232 tons from the Argentine Republic. The inspecting staff at Smithfield Market consists of five inspectors under the direction of a chief inspector, and help is occasionally given by men not on the permanent staff. The market is divided into sections for purposes of inspection, and the inspector for the time being in charge of a given section makes systematic tours through the salesmen's stalls. For further information relative to the system of inspection I would refer the hon. Member to a Report made to the Local Government Board by Dr. Buchanan, one of their medical inspectors, a copy of which I will send him.

MR. H. H. MARKS: Does the right hon. Gentleman contemplate any steps to prevent the importation into this country of putrid meat?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I hope the Bill now before the House may prevent a repetition of this and rectify deficiencies in the law as it now stands.

### Motor Car Speeds.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board whether he has received, during the present year, any applications from local authorities to reduce the speed of motor cars in their areas to ten miles an hour; and, if so, will he give the names of the authorities who have made such application, and if he has sanctioned the same.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have during the present year received applications of the kind referred to from three local authorities, viz., from the Carnarvonshire County Council as regards the roads in a part of the urban district of Llandudno, from the West Suffolk County Council as regards parts of roads in the urban district of Newmarket, and from the Essex County Council as regards the main roads in the urban district of Ilford. I have not felt able to comply with the first of these applications, at any rate to the extent proposed; the others are at present under consideration.

### Motor Fatalities.

MR. MOLTENO: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to the feeling which exists throughout the country in regard to the numerous fatal accidents caused by motor propelled vehicles; and whether His Majesty's Government have in contemplation the introduction of legislation at an early date with a view to restoring to all classes of the community the safe use of the public roads and highways.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. The Royal Commission on Motor Cars have in their Report made various recommendations for the amendment of the Motor Car Acts. The recommendations are receiving my consideration, but it is not intended to propose legislation on the subject during the present session.

### The West Riding Appeal.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education why the Government are appealing to the House of Lords against a decision of the Court of Appeal which declares the law to be in accordance with their own policy; whether the Act to which the decision applies is not superseded by legislation now before Parliament; what the appeal will cost the public; and in what form an Estimate for the expense of this dilatory proceeding will come before the House.

*MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I wish also to ask whether the Cockerton judgment was submitted to the review of the House of Lords; if not, and seeing that the Board of Education then adapted its administration to the findings of that Court of Appeal, why did not the Board of Education now adapt its administration to the recent findings in the Court of Appeal in the case of the West Riding judgment?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, W.): The Petition of Appeal has been lodged because of the practical difficulties of an administrative character occasioned by the decision of the Court of Appeal. Local authorities find themselves unable to know what is their legal position in respect of many important points, such as (*a*) whether they are bound to make any deduction in respect of religious instruction in the voluntary schools; (*b*) in respect of how many hours devoted to such instruction, and of what kind of instruction, such deduction should be made; (*c*) what personal liability they would individually be under in the payment of salaries under existing agreements; and so forth. These considerations appear to render a decision of the Final Court of Appeal obviously desirable in the interests alike of the local authorities, the teachers, and the public generally. It is a mistake to suppose that the decision in question will shortly be superseded by any legislation now before Parliament, since the whole of the year 1907, under the terms of the Government Bill, is a transition period during which the Act of 1902 will in very many places still be in operation. In reply to the third and fourth paragraphs of the Question, the question of costs is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Court. In so far as they may fall upon the Exchequer they are included in the ordinary law charges. It is public and common knowledge that the Cockerton judgment was not carried to the House of Lords. I do not know what reasons determined that decision, but my imagination is capable of suggesting some. In the Cockerton case all the Judges—the two Judges in the Court of King's Bench and the three Judges in the Court of Appeal—

were unanimous, and consequently I can imagine that the Law Officers of the Crown did not think it needful to recommend an appeal to the House of Lords. In the West Riding case, however, the three Judges who heard the case in the first instance and one member of the Court of Appeal were all of one way of thinking, and two Judges of the Court of Appeal were of the other way of thinking; but the decision of the two Judges who were members of the Court of Appeal very properly overruled the decision given by their four judicial brethren. In the face of a judicial disagreement like that, I see a distinction between the Cockerton judgment and the other case. The Cockerton case, no doubt, affected the Board of Education and also the local authorities. As far as the Board of Education is concerned, it was able to alter its administration, while in respect of the local authorities, the House came to their relief by passing a Bill to continue and carry on the Cockerton schools. The West Riding decision affects the administration of education by the local authorities, and that is why we thought it well to relieve the state of anxiety by endeavouring to obtain a final decision.

MR. PAUL gave notice that he would move a Resolution protesting against this waste of public money on lawyers.

### Rifle Shooting in Schools.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to a statement of the Chairman of the Small Arms Company of Birmingham, that the adoption of a miniature rifle by the Government for use in schools had been notified and that the delivery of such rifles to the schools would commence shortly; and, if so, can he state on what conditions such rifles are to be supplied, whether on application from the school managers only, or whether such school managers will be compelled to accept such rifles and train the boys in warlike exercises; and whether it is proposed that military instruction is to form part of the curriculum of public elementary education.

MR. BIRRELL: I have no knowledge of any statement of the kind referred to in the Question, and I can certainly state that so far as elementary schools are concerned, in regard to which the honourable Member asks me, I am quite sure that no rifle, miniature or otherwise, has been adopted by the Government for use in such schools, nor any arrangements made for their delivery.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside) asked whether such a permission to use rifles had been given in the case of secondary schools.

MR. BIRRELL said that he could not answer for what was being done by public school authorities.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) asked whether or not the Board of Education had definitely sanctioned the use of rifles in elementary schools, and whether serious misadventures had not arisen through the use of rifles by boys, and at least one fatal accident.

MR. BIRRELL said that he was sorry to hear of a fatal accident, but such an accident had even occurred in regard to chemical inquiries. There had been no general authority given to elementary schools to practise rifle shooting in any general terms. Permission had been given to the authorities under well-defined conditions in certain cases to allow children of a certain age to be taught how to shoot. But rifle shooting, as it was carried out in these miniature ranges, was by no means a good form of physical exercise, and it was part of the terms that this practice in shooting should not interfere with the most important subject of the physical development of the children.

DR. MACNAMARA: But the Board of Education has sanctioned rifle shooting in elementary schools?

MR. BIRRELL: Under certain conditions, yes.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): May I ask whether there is any objection in principle to teaching the use of the rifle subject to proper safeguards?

*MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member can answer that Question for himself.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Is the rifle instruction being paid for out of the public funds?

MR. BIRRELL: So far as it is part of the public curriculum, it certainly is.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Well done.

### The Mall Improvement.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether arrangements have been made, or negotiations are proceeding, between His Majesty's Office of Works and the London County Council, or other parties, as to providing the cost of removing the three houses at Charing Cross, the removal of which is necessary to complete the Charing Cross end of the Mall improvement; and whether he proposes that the cost of removing these houses shall be met wholly or partly by His Majesty's Government, the London County Council, or others.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The reply to the first paragraph is in the negative. In reply to the second paragraph I can only say that I am not making any proposals in the matter. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply on this subject on 4th July.†

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Has the right hon. Gentleman taken steps of any sort or kind to secure the removal of these houses?

MR. HARCOURT: No Sir, I have not.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Do you not propose to?

MR. HARCOURT: No, Sir.

### Regent's Park Fence.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works what is the reason for the alteration of the fencing of Regent's Park, and to what extent such alteration is proposed to be carried; and whether it is possible to preserve the present fencing, and so avoid destroying a valued feature of the locality.

MR. HARCOURT: The timber fence is so decayed as to be past repair: it is only proposed at present to replace some 480 yards of it with iron fencing, it being impossible to erect a new oak fence except at very great expense.

In answer to a further Question the right hon. Gentleman said that the best portions of the fence which had been removed were utilised for repairing the remainder of the fence.

LORD R. CECIL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a considerable amount of feeling in the locality on this subject? Will he stay further operations until Parliament has had an opportunity of discussing it?

MR. HARCOURT: When the work has been completed the people in the locality will be in a better position to express an opinion.

LORD R. CECIL: Is Parliament to have no control over the matter?

MR. HARCOURT: Parliament has control over my salary.

### The Stibbert Bequest.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister what was the date upon which the British Government decided to refuse the bequest of the late Mr. Stibbert, of Florence, of his collection of art and other property to the British nation, the reasons for such refusal, and whether he will lay upon the Table of this House a copy of Mr. Stibbert's will, as well as of the correspondence on the subject of this bequest between His Majesty's Government, the Italian Government, the Municipality of Florence, and others.

MR. HARCOURT: I have been asked to reply to this Question. The bequest was declined in August last, because it appeared to His Majesty's Government, on examination of the will, that they would have practically no power over the administration, under the conditions laid down by the testator, and would be involved in rather wide financial liabilities. Neither under the terms of the bequest, nor under the Italian law, could any part of the collection have been transferred to this country. The renunciation of the bequest by us transfers it on exactly the same terms and conditions to the Commune of Florence, and therefore those desiring to see the collection will do so exactly as if we had been in nominal custody of it. I do not think it is necessary to lay Papers on the subject, but I will show the hon. Member and others interested any of them they may wish to see.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clx., 38.

### Scottish Agricultural Holdings.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is now able to give information regarding the approximate number and total acreage of agricultural holdings in Scotland below £50 annual value.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): As the hon. Gentleman is aware, approximate information is, as I informed him on 1st August last, to be found by reference to: 1. Poor Rates (Scotland) Persons Assessed Return to House of Commons, dated 6th July, 1891. 2. Table VI of the Annual Returns of Acreage in the Agricultural Statistics, 1905. I have nothing to add to that information.

### Failure of the Irish Potato Crop.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the potato crop in the west of Ireland has been a failure this year; and, in view of that failure, if he will state what steps the Irish Government intend to take to relieve the distress that is certain to ensue.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): I regret to say that the crop has partially failed in some parts of the west of Ireland, but the extent of the failure has not yet been ascertained, and until it is more fully known and the amount of the distress likely to arise can be foreseen, no statement on the subject can with advantage be made. Exceptional distress does not at this moment exist, and if any should unhappily arise (as I fear in some places it will) that can hardly be before the end of the present year. The Government have been giving, and will, of course, continue to give, the closest attention to the matter, and they are considering the action proper to be taken.

### Appointments of County Magistrates.

MR. HENRY (Shropshire, Wellington): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if, in consideration of the unwillingness of lord-lieutenants of certain counties to further the appointments of county magistrates in order that the evil, of which the Lord Chancellor is aware, may be remedied as soon as possible, he will take further measures by which the necessary investigations as to the qualifications of persons recommended, and the appointments may be made without having recourse to the lord-lieutenants.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): It is not the fact that the lord-lieutenants as a rule have shown any unwillingness to assist the Lord Chancellor in the matter referred to. On the contrary, they have furnished information in regard to persons recommended which has been of great assistance. The position of Justice of the Peace involves judicial powers of an extended character and of great importance. The Lord Chancellor is responsible that none but suitable persons should be appointed, and considers that it is neither practicable nor desirable to dispense with the assistance which the lord-lieutenants have for the most part most cordially given.

MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.) asked what steps could be taken to get magistrates appointed in districts where the Bench was mostly Conservative.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not know what the particular form is, but application ought to be made, I presume, to the Lord Chancellor, and the names submitted to him, when he will make such inquiries as he thinks necessary.

MR. BRACE: We have done all that, and still have no satisfaction.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am aware of this fact—that the Lord Chancellor has devoted an infinity of time and labour to the investigation of this matter, which requires a certain amount of patient investigation.

### The Public Trustee Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Prime Minister what course it is proposed to pursue in order to carry out the announced intention of the Government to place the Public Trustee Bill upon the Statute Book in the course of the present session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: This is a measure which seems very suitable for consideration by a Grand Committee, but no definite determination has yet been come to on the subject.

### The Alterations in the House.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will give facilities for the discussion of the Motion on the recent alterations in the House and the interference with Members' seats and privileges.†

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think that an opportunity should be given to the House for discussing this matter before we rise. My right hon. friend was mistaken in the impression which he conveyed that there would be a special Vote during these sittings. There will not be a special Vote, and I am considering in what form such an opportunity can best be provided. I take it that there will be no desire on the part of the House to discuss the question at great length, and that in the prospect of such an opportunity, daily Motions directed to the presence of strangers will be discontinued.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that important alterations were now going on and that one was made last night after this Motion was set down.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: They cannot be alterations affecting the general policy of the new arrangement of seats.

---

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'fifteen.'"—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Clause."

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the Bill was not a good one. As with another Bill before the House, it was class legislation, in that the rich man was favoured as compared with the working man—he referred to the Street Betting Bill. Here the well-to-do were at a disadvantage. What was the Amendment before the Committee? It was to defer the operation of the Act from 1907 to 1915. There was, he thought, one subject which would be in order, and that was the constitutional aspects of the question. He did not think it could be denied by hon. Members of the House that the Bill made a great change, both in theory and practice, in our constitution. It abolished territorial representation. It said that a man should not have more than one vote because he owned property in several different districts. If that were so, let them look for a moment at the practice of other countries, where great constitutional change was contemplated by the Legislature. If they looked at the great republic across the Atlantic they saw that no great change could be made unless the central Legislature approved of that change by a two-thirds majority; and even that did not suffice, but all the Legislatures of the various states had to pass the change by a three-fourths majority. Hon. Members might well say, and perhaps truly, that the United States, though in theory, was not a democratic country in practice. No one, however, would deny that it had a great amount of liberty. But let them look at another republic, one which, though perhaps not quite so much before the eyes of the world, had nevertheless an honourable history. He referred to the republic of Switzerland. No one would deny that the constitution there was not only democratic in theory——

---

† The Motion referred was in the following terms:—"That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report to the House upon the recent alterations in the House whereby an obstruction has been erected preventing Members using about ten seats to the right of Mr. Speaker, heretofore appropriated to the use of Members, and whereby strangers are being introduced into a portion of the House not hertofore used for such purpose; and, further, the recent alterations in the House to the right under the Gallery whereby Members' privileges of securing the introduction of strangers under the Gallery have been curtailed by one-half."

THE CHAIRMAN: What is or is not done in other countries has nothing to do with the Amendment. The hon. Member must confine himself to the Amendment.

*MR. ASHLEY said his argument was intended to show that no change in the constitution of the country should be allowed to take place before an election; and his noble friend's Amendment, if carried, would enable that election to take place. He wanted to show from the constitution—[Cries of "No, no."]

THE CHAIRMAN: That is not in order.

*MR. ASHLEY said his point was that they ought to defer the operation of the Act until 1915, because if it came into operation in 1907 the people of the country would not have an opportunity of saying whether they approved of the measure or not. The question of plural voting was not before the country at the last general election. The Government received a mandate in reference to Chinese Labour, but they had received no mandate as regarded plural voting. In his election campaign plural voting was never mentioned, and he thought his experience was the experience of the vast majority of the Members of the House. In view of these things he asked the Government to accept the Amendment and so enable the country at the next general election to say whether they approved of the Bill or not.

LORD CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) desired to associate himself with the noble Lord, for he also was of opinion that the measure should not come into force until 1915. It was not in accordance with the wishes of the country that the Bill should be passed through the House of Commons except in conjunction with a redistribution of seats. During the debates upon the question the Opposition had been treated by the Government—he would not say in a discourteous manner, but the Government had certainly turned a deaf ear to every proposal that his side of the House had made. He would venture to quote the words of a present Member of the Government and one whose authority would be respected on the opposite side of the House. These words were used by the Secretary of State for India some time ago—

> "The Government were unable to deal with plural voting in root and branch; to do so would necessitate dealing with the question of redistribution."

He hoped the Members of the Government would seek the advice of the right hon. Gentleman, for he felt convinced that the Secretary of State for India would not have uttered those words unless they were really his opinion, an opinion which he had no idea of changing. He begged to support the Amendment.

*SIR FRANCIS LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston) said he wished to support the Amendment, not because he desired to delay any just and fair alteration in our existing electoral system which might be shown to be necessary, but in order that the Government might have an opportunity of bringing forward a further measure to complete and perfect what they themselves were forced to admit was an incomplete measure, and so remove most of the objections which they on that side entertained towards the present Bill. He thought it might be taken that, subject to a few exceptions in favour of the Universities and other similar bodies, they on that side had no particular objection to the principle of what was known as "One man, one vote," provided that it was accompanied by such a re-distribution of electoral areas as would secure something like an equal value to each vote which was cast in any election. Plural votes were not the only or the greatest irregularities in our existing system, and they did not see why the Government should pick out and proceed to deal with this one irregularity, just because it told most against their own side, whilst they left entirely untouched many much more glaring irregularities. As an instance of what he meant, he would like to ask which was the greater injustice: that a small town like Newry in Ireland with its 1,900 electors, should have the same representation in that House and the same voice in the settlement of the affairs of the nation as the Romford Division of Essex with its 45,000 electors or that land and property (which no one could say was over-represented in that House at the present time) should continue to have the same inadequate amount of representation which it now possessed until the whole thing could be put right? But to make the alteration which the present Bill proposed alone would only tend to accentuate and increase the present inequalities, for many of the smaller existing constituencies, like the county of Rutland with its 4,000 electors, would be rendered smaller still by having some of their present voters taken away from them, whilst some of the larger constituencies, such as the Bordesley Division of Birmingham with its 16,000 electors, would not have any voters taken away from it, so would remain entirely as it was. He called attention to what a false and invidious position many Members of the present House of Commons would be placed in if this alteration were made. The constituencies which returned them would be entirely changed, and they would cease to represent those who elected them in any true sense of the term. He would only say in conclusion, that he wished the present Amendment to be passed in order that the Government might have time to introduce a further measure which would remedy the omissions of the present Bill and confer upon every householder what they themselves professed to desire he should have, namely, an equal voice in the management of the affairs of his country.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the argument advanced by the hon. Member for Blackpool was a genuine argument. It was thought to be advisable to postpone the date of the operation of this Bill from 1907 to 1915, in order that a general election might take place and the opinion of the country be taken upon this particular Bill. He himself was only concerned in endeavouring to shew the reason why the date of its operation should be changed. He believed the change would commend itself to hon. Gentlemen opposite, because they themselves complained in the late Parliament that the then Government had no right to deal with any questions except those connected with the settlement of the war in South Africa, because they had received no other mandate. In the last election there certainly was no mandate for a plural voting Bill. But there were other strong reasons why the Amendment should be accepted. First there was the reason adduced by his noble friend, that a Bill of this sort should not be brought in unless it was accompanied by redistribution. That was a very powerful reason. Then there were other anomalies, and if the Committee were going to make this very vital alteration in the franchise they should see not only that no other anomalies were created, but that as many anomalies in the present law were removed as possible. He trusted, as there was to be a Report Stage, the right hon. Gentleman would consent to this Amendment.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) appealed for more time to consider this Amendment, because to pass through the House legislation in this piecemeal way was not only unwise, but it would not in the long run attain the object the Government desired. He did not see that the argument as to anomalies applied at all. It was said that this Bill was brought in to remove an anomaly. Now an anomaly was a departure from the common rule, and the common rule in this country was that representation and taxation should go together.

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that the question was whether this anomaly should come to an end in 1907 or 1915.

MR. EVELYN CECIL explained that this Bill, far from removing an anomaly, was introducing one. It introduced the anomaly of representation without taxation. It was therefore very desirable that this Bill, if passed, should not come into force now, but that its operation should be put off in order to give time for a general Bill correcting anomalies from a broad standpoint. He could not see, if this legislation was proceeded with, that they would do anything else than create further anomalies instead of carrying out the object of the Government, which was said to be to reduce them.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said that one very obvious reason why the operation of this Bill should be postponed was that it ought to be accompanied by a Bill for redistribution, as it would be impossible to say what proportion of electors there would be in the various constituencies. Another important reason why it should not come into operation until a redistribution Bill was passed, was that there were a great number of serious anomalies in the present law which would have to be dealt with. If the Government proceeded in the proper course by means of various Bills to remove those anomalies, then it would be only reasonable that the whole of the alterations should come into operation at one time. Therefore it was desirable to postpone the operation of this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman scarcely appreciated the amount of work that would be required to be done before this Bill could be applied in the constituencies. The registers would require to be made up and dealt with. Two of the smallest constituencies in Liverpool, for instance, would have 25 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively, of their voters taken from them. He did not see how the Bill could possibly come into operation at the date suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, and he thought a reasonable time should be given before it did come into force.

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes, 307; Noes, 89. (Division list No. 330.)

## AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets, S. Geo
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Iverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan(Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor (Churchill)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jocaby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea

Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George

Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Hebert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.)
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry

Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe,
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir ThomasPalmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson Hon.C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.AlexSirF.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur

Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Worc.

Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur

Finch, Rt. Hon George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edmds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Parker, SirGilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon.Arthur(Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Staveley, Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wilson, A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Francis Lowe.

*MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) moved as an Amendment to insert after the words "the year nineteen hundred and seven," the words "or such later date as His Majesty in Council may determine." He claimed that this Amendment could not be characterised as one of a destructive nature. He submitted, indeed, that in the event of the measure passing into law it would tend to its smooth working. It had been claimed by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, that the measure possessed the quality of simplicity. Perhaps that might be true. One might go so far as to say that it was transparent, but whatever its simplicity, there seemed to be great difficulty in the way of defining exactly what sort of Bill it was. The Committee were assured that it was not an enfranchising Bill, they were also assured that it was not a disfranchising Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman had described it, to use his own words, as a machinery Bill. A machinery Bill it certainly was in one sense. It was a measure to help the political machine of one political party. How the Bill worked would depend, he thought, upon the treatment this Amendment might receive. While he did not call in question at all the earnestness and sincerity of the promoters of this Bill in their desire to establish a reform, he would remind them that there were some "reforms" that were to be achieved at too great cost and at too great mischief. They all knew the story of the wag who undertook to show bootmakers how to make a pair of shoes in less than five minutes. It was by cutting the tops off a pair of boots. But that was a wasteful process, and it was the process which seemed to commend itself to the authors of this measure. Why did he ask that the Government should give the option proposed by the Amendment with respect to the date when the Act was to come into operation? Because in his opinion the Bill was bound to set up most complex machinery. It was bound to involve electoral and registration work in an amount of confusion and complication which he was sure its authors did not contemplate. An Order in Council would have to be prepared under Sub-section 2 of Clause 1 of this Bill. Between now and the date when this measure came into operation in 1907 it was open to question whether the electors or political agents would have time to consider the difficult problems which might arise under the Bill. He wished to call attention to the fact that if the Bill passed as it now stood, and came into force on 1st September next, that was just at a time when the registration lists in the various constituencies were compiled. What would that involve in the registration agencies in the various constituencies? They knew already that there were extreme difficulties in the way of doing registration work, and they had heard for many years that it was the intention of the Liberal Government to simplify the work of registration. But would this Bill simplify the work? On the contrary, it would complicate it infinitely. Voters would have to put in a claim to vote in a particular constituency and establish a sort of clearing house as to voting rights. The details for carrying this out would not only be of infinite complexity, but an entirely new branch of political work and organisation would have to be established. He submitted that to expect to start the whole of this new machinery and have it in working order between now and 1st September next was unreasonable. Why should not the Government consent to take an option of extending the date when the Act should come into operation by means of an Order in Council? Surely the Government did not anticipate that they were to be out of office before that date! Why should not the Order in Council extend the operative date beyond 1st September? Why should not the terms of the Order in Council have been laid on the Table of the House, and hon. Members would then have been able to judge what was to be done. If they had had the Order in Council before them it was conceivable that that document might have persuaded hon. Members as to the simplicity of the Bill. But in the absence of the Order, and in the absence of full explanations as to the operation of the Act, he submitted that it would be doing a rash thing to agree to this Bill, which he presumed would be passed, coming into operation on 1st September next. The time was too short and the matters to be considered were too important for that. If this Bill was to pass—as he assumed it would—it was as well that it should pass with the minimum of injustice and inconvenience to all concerned. It was for that reason that he moved the Amendment standing in his name in the hope that it would be adopted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'seven,' to insert the words 'or such later date as His Majesty in Council may determine'"—(*Mr. H. H. Marks*).

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT thought the hon. Member, on further consideration, would come to the conclusion that this Amendment was undesirable, not only from his point of view, but undeniably from the view of the Government. It was essential to give notice to the public when a particular Act of Parliament came into operation. That was, of course, for the general convenience. But if the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman were adopted it would not only prove a great inconvenience, but would amount to something almost unconstitutional. The Legislature alone could decide when a law should come into force, and to take the power out of the hands of Parliament as to when a measure should come into force involved rather a serious constitutional question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) did not think that the account of the Amendment given by the right hon. Gentleman was accurate. It was not as if the Government were, in despite of Parliament, keeping to itself the time when this Act should come into force. What his hon. friend asked was that Parliament should leave to the Government a certain license in determining when the Act should come into operation. After all the Government were responsible to the House of Commons, and any delay on the part of the Government in bringing an Act into operation would be summarily put an end to by a majority of this House expressing its will thereon. An Order in Council was, no doubt, the act of the Executive—of the Ministers, and no abuse of it could possibly occur without its being brought before Parliament. So far as he could recollect there was no precedent for this particular form of delay.

Mr. H. H. MARKS said that there was a precedent.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that, at all events, it was not the common way to leave a latitude or choice to the Government of the day in bringing an Act of Parliament into operation. On the other hand, this Bill was of an exceedingly complicated character, and where they had not before them the Order in Council, which would largely fill up the *lacunæ* left by the draftsman of the Bill, he thought that the Government should be given some latitude as to when the measure should come into operation. The Amendment compelled nobody.

Mr. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford) said that this was a measure which sought to disfranchise and not to enfranchise voters in more senses than had occurred to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. If time were not given for the consideration of the details of the Bill a large number of His Majesty's subjects would find themselves in prison. He had much pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

*Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said that the remarks which had fallen from one of the hon. Members for the City of London in regard to the previous Amendment applied equally to this, because, during the last general election this particular measure was not before the country. At any rate it was not before a single Irish constituency. On that ground alone he supported the proposal that it was necessary that a certain latitude should be given to the Government, as to the time it was to come into force. He had several Amendments on the Paper which would come on for discussion later on, including one to exclude Ireland altogether from the operation of this measure; but it was imperative on him to support the present Amendment as strongly as he possibly could. In the North of Ireland they had been for some time asking for a Redistribution Bill, and the effect of the Amendment would be to give a chance for a Redistribution Bill to be introduced. He believed that this Bill might be taken alongside of a Redistribution Bill removing some very serious anomalies which existed at the present moment in the electoral law in the North of Ireland. He spoke in the interests of all sides and not in reference to either the South or North of the Boyne. It would be of the greatest advantage that this Bill should be placed in such a position, that if some of the truths which were well known as existing in regard to Ireland were brought home to His Majesty's Government, His Majesty in Council might in consequence postpone bringing this measure into force until a later date. He had very much pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) hoped the Amendment would be accepted, or at any rate, if it was not accepted in the form in which it stood that they would have an intimation from the right hon. Member in charge of the Bill that he would extend the time beyond the date at which it now stood. He thought they must all admit that the discussion upon the Bill showed that there was going to be great difficulty in regard to its application. Under the Bill notice must be served before the 1st September, 1907, so that at the very outset there were only nine months of 1907 in which the various agents, both Liberal and Conservative, would have to give their instructions to electors to enable them to take advantage of the clause, otherwise by September all the plural voters would be disfranchised and would have no right to vote. Therefore he contended that even Liberal agents themselves would tell the right hon. Member in charge of the Bill that the complexity of the measure was so great that nine months was an insufficient time in which to schedule and index the plural voters and enable them to serve those voters with proper notices. If they were to pass this measure let them pass it in a shape cognisant with justice, and whilst the Amendment might be rather too wide, if the right hon. Gentleman would give them till the year 1908, he would be doing that which was right and just to those who were entitled to the plural vote.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 89; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 331.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hr. Sir Alex F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lcnd.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G (Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E (Chichester)
Thomson, W Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. Howard
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr H. H. Marks and Mr. Staveley-Hill.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn W. C. B. (Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W (Tower H'mlets, S. Geo
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H W
Causton, Rt Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt, Hon. R R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S )
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.

Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum. John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants.)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Cent.)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sutherland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said that what he proposed by the next Amendment on the Paper was that instead of providing that an elector should only vote in a selected constituency, he should not be allowed to vote in more than one constituency during the same year. He proposed to do away with the whole of the complicated machinery of selecting a constituency, and to provide that a man entitled to vote in several places must vote in one place, and one place only, during the same year. If a man made up his mind that he would vote in constituency A, and if a general election or a by-election occurred and he voted in that constituency, that would be his constituency for the year. If there was the least ground for suspecting a voter, the question could be put to him "Have you voted in any other constituency during the present year?" There were precedents for this proposal, a similar proposal having been made in a Bill brought in by Mr. Shaw Lefevre in 1892, and in the Bills subsequently introduced by the Liberal Government of 1892. The same principle was now in force in county elections, where a voter might make his own selection, and having done that he could not vote in any other constituency. The plan worked quite smoothly, and he did not see why it could not be carried out in this Bill. It had been said that there was a risk of a man with several votes losing them all under this Bill, and if hon. Members examined the question closely they would at once see that that was so. If a man was an occupier, he was often put upon the list of electors without his knowledge and without any initiative on his part. It was the overseers' duty to put him on the register. The ordinary elector, who was not very particular about his voting powers, did not often go through the list of electors, and a man might well be a plural voter without being conscious that he was guilty of that crime, and under this Bill as it stood such a man would lose his vote. Then again a voter might not know the date upon which he had to send in his notice and in that way he might very easily be disfranchised. Or he might not know where to send his notice to, and in that case too he might lose all his votes. The fact was that it ought not to rest with the voter to take the first step in the matter. Under the Bill as it stood many voters would be disfranchised, but if they accepted his Amendment there would be no need for the precautions which had been discussed in these debates. He ventured to suggest to the Committee that this was a very simple proposal and one which would get rid of many of the difficulties of the Bill. There was also a chance of votes being lost under the Bill in another way. For some reason which he did not understand a voter had to send in his selection notice before the 1st September. The revision of the list of electors took place between the 8th September and the 12th October, so that this notice must be sent before the list of Parliamentary electors commenced to be revised. Surely that was a ridiculous state of things. Supposing a man was under the impression that he had a vote in constituencies A, B, and C, before the revision, and he sent in his selection notice and selected constituency A. The revising barrister might receive an objection from the Party agent and strike the name off altogether. In that case it would be too late for the voter to say that he would choose constituency B or C, and so the unfortunate man who had committed no crime known to the law would lose the whole of his three votes. Anything more unjust than that he could not conceive. If there was to be a selection, it ought not to be made before the revision, but after it, when the man knew upon which lists his name was to be found. He contended that his Amendment embodied an intelligible alternative to the Bill and one which would work smoothly. Some further amendment might be required later on in order to give his proposal full effect, but he trusted that he had made his meaning perfectly clear. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words 'except in that' and insert the words 'in more than.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'except' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said he perfectly understood the view taken by the hon. Member, and his main object was to get rid of selection. He thought that if they were going to leave a choice of qualifications to the voter they were bound to have some notification of where he was going to vote, and it was not much to ask him once a year, or, if he preferred it, once only in a life-time, to make a selection, and to write a short note, or fill up a form and send to the clerk. The hon. Member said that the proposal in the Amendment appeared in previous Bills, but it was exactly because that proposal appeared in those Bills and was met by such strong opposition from people who understood the working of the register, that it had not been adopted in this case. They had, he thought, adopted a simpler and a fairer method. The hon. Member had referred to the suggestion that an elector might not know that he was a plural voter. He, however, thought it was impossible that any man should not know that he might be a plural voter. He could hardly believe that a man could have property which would qualify him for a vote without his being conscious of it. He might perhaps not know he had been put on the register. As to the suggestion that under sub-section 2 a plural voter would not be unable to send in his notice, if it would be a satisfaction to hon. Members, he would put in words to make it additionally clear that he could make a selection. An hon. Member had referred to the hardship of the plural voter's having to make this selection, but he had forgotten, he thought, that the lodger was compelled to make a claim, not once in his life but every year, and a lodger was presumably a man who knew much less about electoral law, and had much fewer facilities for making claims, than the man dealt with by this Bill. The hon. Member had again raised a point referred to yesterday, and to meet which his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised that something should be done. It was the case of a man who, after having sent in his selection, was struck off the register. He must say that he assumed the plural voter would always select in the first instance the vote he was perfectly certain of. In accordance with the promise given, however, he thought he would be able to devise a clause to bring up on Report which would enable a man who had selected a qualification which he was ultimately deprived of to change his selection without any troublesome process. But the principle of selection was essential to the Bill and he must retain it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said the right hon. Gentleman had claimed for his plan among other things that it was simpler than a residential plan It might have certain advantages, but simplicity could not be claimed for it by anyone who knew our electoral system. The right hon. Gentleman thought that the plural voter was a person who knew he was a plural voter and was known as such, but the majority—and he had tested the question very carefully by the registers of three adjoining counties—did not, in the agricultural parishes tested by him, answer to that description. Delicate researches would have to be made in order to find them out, and he would come to a proposal on the next Amendment by which he thought the difficulties would be diminished. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the voter would be certain to know in every case whether he was really qualified, and if he were not qualified he would be removed from the register. That was an ideal state.

MR. HARCOURT: I said I thought any man would know whether he had any qualifications which might enable him to be put on the register.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he had mentioned the case of a gentleman who had sat in this House and who had only one legal qualification, though he was in possession of thirty-six or thirty-eight qualifications, none of which were legal, which he was not aware of. Cases, however, in which a man was on one register legally and on another illegally were common enough. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the plural voter would only have to write a letter to notify the clerk of his choice, and that the lodger voter had to do the same thing now. That, however, was not the case, though he used to do so. In order to save the lodger who had once established his claim from the necessity of reclaiming every year, what was known as the "old" lodger was invented, and only the "new" lodger now had to make his claim. The old lodger made a solemn declaration. In the great majority of revision courts the lodger claims were now allowed on evidence altogether different from that which formerly prevailed. Claims in general were in a vast number of cases made on behalf of the claimants and not by the claimants themselves. He must enter a caveat against the suggestion that the plural voter would do all the things that were required of him. There were many points requiring to be cleared up and on which they would have to press the Government very closely or else the Bill would break down in working. Only in one case had revising barristers recently returned to the better practice, namely, the form of allowing the owner to select his polling place. Only two classes could do that, namely, the owner and the policeman on duty. Unfortunately this power had occasionally been used by Party agents to make people vote at the wrong place, and so disfranchise them. Some revising barristers had insisted upon receiving a letter from the voter clearly stating his wishes.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said that two blacks did not make a white, and the arguments put forward in defence of this Bill upon this point had been demolished by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, and it was well known that the lodger had not to make any claim at all. The lodger was generally resident in one place only for a short time, and when the lodger vote was introduced there was some ground for insisting that he should make a claim. With regard to the question of qualification, the right hon. Gentleman had said that although a man who had two qualifications might not know he was on the register in both instances, it was impossible for him to know that he was not qualified. He had himself two qualifications, or thought he had, and he was on the register for both. A general election came round and he went to vote in both places and he found in one of them that his name was not on the register, it having been removed without his knowledge. A year or two afterwards he went to a parochial election in the same constituency and he found that he was on the register for the local election and also upon the Parliamentary register, and it was quite possible under this Bill that in such a case he would have lost his vote altogether. That showed that there were cases where a man did not know whether he was actually on the register or whether he was qualified. The Amendment they were discussing was one that made for simplicity, and it did away with a very great hardship with regard to the penalty. He instanced the case of a plural voter who having made up his mind to select a certain district forgot to make his selection. If, under the impression that he had done so, he went to the place which he thought he had selected and asked for a voting paper, the clerk might say to him "Have you another vote?" The elector would reply, "Yes, I have." The clerk would then reply, "But you are not starred." That voter would have committed an offence, because he would have asked for a voting paper in a constituency in which he was not starred, and it would be absolutely impossible that he had not acted knowingly. Consequently he would be liable to two years hard labour. If this Amendment were carried, all that would disappear. It would be absolutely unjust to compel a man who had made such a slight error as that to pay such a penalty as was provided under the Bill. There was no doubt that a great many voters would not give the necessary notice of selection, and if it was the desire that a good House of Commons should be chosen, and if it could not be shown that the voters he referred to were not fit to have a vote, the only course open to the Government was to accept this Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) thought the Committee would feel after the speeches which had been delivered that they had come to a very critical point in the discussion. The Amendment was concerned not with mitigating the principle of the Bill, but with the machinery by which the view of the Government was to be carried out. He did not think that any one who had heard the debate was likely to deny that the plan of his hon. and learned friend was incomparably more simple and was open to far fewer machinery objections than the plan of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman who had replied had not given a single reason why this plan should be considered inadmissible. What the Government had done was simply to defend their own plan, but that defence had been knocked to atoms by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. It was said, in the first place, that no greater hardship was inflicted on the plural voter than was inflicted on the lodger voter. That, the Member for the Forest of Dean had pointed out, might be so according to the letter of the law, but was not necessarily so according to practice. Speaking broadly, the practice was not that described by the Minister in charge of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean, who brought these facts before the

Committee did not express approval or disapproval of the general practice which now prevailed. He did not think the authority of the right hon. Gentleman could be challenged when he said that the practice did prevail. So much for the first part of the argument. Now they came to the second part of the argument of the Government in favour of their own proposal, which was that every man really knew, and always knew when he had alternative qualifications, and that therefore he was always in a position to make his selection, or to know that he must make a selection if he wanted to vote, and that he had no right to make complaint if the duty of making a selection was cast upon him. That argument had been met by the facts which had been brought forward showing that every man did not know when he was qualified as a voter in certain constituencies. The right hon. Baronet had gone the length of saying that in some cases it was impossible to find out, and that, as it were, no industry on the part of the voter could easily make him acquainted with the fact that he had a qualification to be placed on the register. Was that true or was it not? The Government had not met the contention of high authorities that it was a fact known from the actual practice of the electoral law that a man did not always know whether or not he had qualifications for the franchise in more than one constituency, and therefore, was not always in a position to make his selection of the place in which he wanted to vote. It was quite possible that a man, without the slightest knowledge on his own part, might find himself on the register of a constituency in which he had not the faintest idea he possessed the qualification for a vote. How, then, could any man on going to the polling booth to vote say, in answer to the question of the presiding officer, that he had no qualification in any other constituency? If he should say so innocently it might turn out not to be true, and he would thereby expose himself to a penalty. But if the man said he did not know whether or not he was qualified elsewhere, what was the presiding officer to do? It was clear that, in such a case, under the Bill the presiding officer could not allow the vote. He asked in all seriousness, was the voter to be disfranchised because he had not this knowledge as to his qualifications elsewhere, which no research on his part could enable him to possess?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said it was asked, why should not the plural voter be allowed to go to the polling booth without having previously indicated in any way in respect of which of his numerous qualifications he intended to vote? The answer was that it was in the public interest to have it known, when the register came into operation, how many of these people were going to vote in each constituency. The Bill proposed to lay upon the plural voter, as his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean had pointed out, a much lighter burden than the present law imposed upon the lodger. The lodger had to make a declaration; the plural voter had only to give notice. It was quite true that a lax practice had been allowed to prevail in regard to the lodger in most of the Revision Courts. But no amount of hugger-mugger on the part of the political agents, even though it were sanctioned by the revising barrister, would get rid of the fact that it was contrary to the law to put a lodger on the register unless he had made a declaration. The Government had guarded, to the best of their ability, against any such laxity springing up in the case of plural voters by providing that the notice of selection should be signed by the voter himself. The Leader of the Opposition brought forward the case of an unfortunate man who, without any knowledge of his own, by the action of Providence, or the mistake of an overseer, had been endowed with a qualification in more than one constituency. He was very sceptical about the existence of such a class to any large extent in the community. No man was qualified to be put upon the register, which was prepared in September and came into operation on 1st January, unless his qualification had been matured from the 15th of the preceding July. It was impossible to suppose there were a considerable section of the community in possession of this matured qualification and yet ignorant of the fact that they did possess it. In his view, no one could have any difficulty in answering the question of the presiding officer in the polling booth, whether he was on the register of any other constituency than that in which he proposed to vote. [Cries of "Supposing you do not know?"] In that case the answer would be "So far as I know I am not." Was it seriously contended that if such an answer were given the presiding officer would reject the vote? [OPPOSITION cries of "Yes."] The Leader of the Opposition also advanced the argument that such a man would expose himself to the penalties provided. That could not be so.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): Will the right hon. Gentleman read Clause 2, line 15?

MR. ASQUITH said they would discuss that when they came to Clause 2, line 15. The hon. and learned Gentleman seemed to think this was a serious point. The other objection stated by the Leader of the Opposition was that such a man would expose himself to the penalties provided. But that could not be so, because the only legal offence created by the section was that of knowingly acting in contravention of it, and the burden of proving active knowledge rested upon the prosecution. Therefore, in the case which the right hon. Gentleman had put, the penalty could not possibly be inflicted upon him.

AN HON. MEMBER: He might be disfranchised.

MR. ASQUITH: That was the outside of what might be inflicted upon him. Let them not be told that a man might be sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour because he had quite innocently voted in one constituency and did not know that he had a qualification in another. It must be admitted that there were practical difficulties connected with any process of selection that could be adopted; but, on the balance, he urged that the plan adopted by the Government, having regard to the interests of the community, was the most practical and the least inconvenient.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that in the case of a lodger a declaration was put in every year. But as regards other classes of voters assistant overseers could place names on the register, not only without any claim on the part of voters, but even against their wish. There was another class of persons who were on the register without knowing it. He meant wandering agricultural labourers, thousands of whom, having got on the register, remained there because neither of the political Party agents knew anything about them. Many of them were unconscious pluralists.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that this clause would seriously affect a much larger number of people than the Government imagined. Instead of applying to rich men who possessed wide information, the Bill would deal hardly with poor men who had no opportunity of knowing how matters stood as regarded registration. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the worst that could happen to the plural voter was that he would be disfranchised. That might be the object of the Government; he thought it was, and it was because the Bill would attain that object that the hon. Member for Prestwich had supported the measure on the previous day. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that it was not a hardship that people who had more than one qualification might be disqualified. That was a monstrous proposition. How were any of them to know on what register their names appeared? He might have had a qualification once, but he did not know, for example, whether the overseers had done their duty and removed his name from his service qualification in Downing Street. After all, he was not bound to make inquiries, and the fact that he had been on the register for the past five years might have passed from his recollection. There were countless cases in which without making inquiry they could not find out whether they were on the register or not, and so they would very likely lose their vote altogether. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean, who was one of the highest authorities on questions of this kind, had admitted that it would require in scores of instances the utmost care to trace voters on different registers. The whole of this difficulty would be removed by the Amendment. The solitary objection taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was that it would be inconvenient in many constituencies not to know how many people were going to vote; but they could not have accuracy of that kind in any case, because there were men on the register who would not come and vote. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on behalf of the voter himself. Surely some consideration ought to be given to him, and he should be allowed to choose the district in which he could vote for the candidate for whom he had the most personal respect. Let them take the case of an elector, a member of the Liberal Party, having a qualification in Midlothian and also in London. Supposing he discovered immediately before an election that a man for whose political life work he had the highest respect had consented to stand for Midlothian, why should he be prevented from voting in Midlothian for the man who best represented his views? Accepting the principle of the Bill he maintained that the particular method of carrying it out which the Government had chosen inflicted unnecessary hardship on the plural voter, forced upon him a risk of losing his vote altogether, and restricted him in the choice of the Parliamentary candidates for whom he should vote.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) considered that the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer was no doubt right in saying that many of the electors who would come to the poll would not be able to answer the question of whether or not they had another vote. But whether that was so or not the point was not of importance, because the Party agents, the moment these registers were compiled, would carefully go through them and find out those who had a double qualification, and serve them with a notice to that effect, with the result that unless they took the necessary steps they would be unable to exercise their votes in any other place whatever. That was the answer to the question which the right hon. Gentleman had put, and they all knew that the practical result would be that every plural voter who had not made a declaration would find himself absolutely debarred from exercising the franchise. But it was said that this was a very small grievance and that, after all, as it affected a very few people, it was a case of *de minimis*, and therefore they need say nothing about it. He would like to give his right hon. friend the result of some of his practical experience, because for many years before he entered this House it was his lot to act as a revising barrister. He could therefore tell his right hon. friend that this was not a question of a double qualification, but a question of being doubly registered. If a man was doubly registered he was a plural voter, whether he had a plural or double vote or not. In his own experience he knew of hundreds and thousands of people who, although they were put down as having a double qualification, had no qualification at all. He would tell his right hon. friend how it came about. This was a question which affected a very large number of poor as well as rich people. The working classes, who were constantly moving about in London, were frequently not aware of the fact that they had acquired a new qualification for a vote, and they were left on the register in regard to their former residences. There were, as he had said, hundreds and thousands of these people, because no man was going to take the trouble to have his name removed from the list, his Party agent was not going to get him removed if he was sure of his vote, and it was only the opposing agent who, if he knew the facts, would do so. But if the latter did not discover the fact of his removal he remained upon the old register while he had acquired a new qualification. What was his position? Why, having got on the register for his new residence, that, according to this Bill, would disqualify him from voting in respect of his old abode. He had had no desire to intervene in the debate, but he felt it his duty to speak of the experience which he had had in these matters. He was not quite sure that the Amendment as it stood would meet the case, but speaking for himself personally and not as a politician he could not see the objection to leaving the elector to vote upon any qualification which existed, with this proviso, that if he voted twice he should be subject to the penalties of the Bill. It appeared to him to be the simplest question in the world. No man was likely to vote twice with the knowledge, which he would receive from the Party agent, that he would thereby subject himself to two years imprisonment. There was no advantage in pressing the present provisions of the Bill, and every object which it was desired to accomplish could be gained by leaving that point open and thus avoiding all these practical difficulties which so many hon. Members had pointed out.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) said that everybody agreed that a plural voter who voted twice ought to be subject to penalties and be disfranchised. But if this Bill became an Act a man would be disfranchised not because he was a plural voter, but because he had a plural qualification, which would not be owing to his own fault, but because of the action of the revising barrister, the election agent, or some other person connected with the registration. He therefore thought the Amendment ought to be accepted, unless the Government wished to pass a Bill not to do away with plural voting but to disfranchise certain people who happened to have a plural qualification.

*MR. HORRIDGE (Manchester, E.) said he personally felt very strongly the difficulties which had been pointed out in connection with the Government scheme. He had himself endeavoured to find a better plan, but he admitted that he could not do so, and after balancing the difficulties of the scheme of the Government and those of the plan suggested by the hon. Member for the Kingston Division he had come to the conclusion that that of the Government was the only workable one. He felt the difficulty of the persons who did not know that they had two qualifications, and he was sorry to say that he was very much in their position himself. He was, indeed, one of the persons whom the Chancellor of the Exchequer rather ridiculed as having any difficulty on the subject. He believed that if the Bill were amended in the spirit of the Amendment now before the Committee, it would in many instances be practically useless. It was idle to tell him that people would not commit a breach of the law because there was a penalty, unless that penalty could be enforced; and in nearly every case it would be impossible to discover the duplicate voter and enforce the penalty. It was easy enough to have a machinery in boroughs, and even in divisions of counties, which would enable one to trace the duplicate voter, but it was impossible to have any such machinery in regard to the whole of the United Kingdom. If the register was "starred" in regard to the places in which the elector was not entitled to vote, it was true it could be taken by the personating agents, and they could compare the lists. The hon. Member for Perth had said the penalty was sufficient to deter a man from voting twice. There was the agent to challenge the man who was going to give a duplicate vote, but how could that apply to the whole country? In many cases ardent politicians would vote in London one day, and the next week they would travel to John o' Groats to record another vote. Under no system applied to the United Kingdom could such plural voters be traced, and unless they had some scheme such as that which the Government proposed, under which a man made a selection beforehand, the Bill would be unworkable. As he understood it, the Bill, provided that a man with a duplicate qualification should indicate the constituency in which he desired to vote, and when a man came up to vote, if there was the necessary star against him in the register, the presiding officer knew that he had elected to vote in that division. If there was no star then he put the question. It might be that it would be better to go even farther, as he had indicated, and as had been mentioned by the right hon. Member in charge of the Bill, and "star" where a man was not entitled to vote, but at all events, the Bill went some length towards meeting the question, and, as he had shown, that was most desirable having regard to the whole of the Kingdom. The Bill enabled personation to be detected to some extent, and it was because he believed that if some precautions of this kind were not taken that a man would vote first in one place, and then in another, that he supported the proposals of the Government. He quite recognised the points made by the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, and saw that in whatever way they attacked this question there were difficulties, but he did not believe that a penalty, no matter how great it was, would prevent ardent politicians from voting in two places. There were difficulties in the way of every solution of the question, but he felt that the one proposed by the Government would be the most effective in achieving the desired end. He felt that under the circumstances the Government proposal was the fairest.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said it was not until he heard this discussion that he was aware that working men so easily got upon the voting register of the division in which they lived. The complaint that he had heard was of the great difficulty the working men had to get upon the register at all, and the almost insuperable difficulty of getting upon it unless they were resident a long time in one locality. He would require far more definite evidence than the assertion made this afternoon, before he was convinced that there were many plural voters among the working men. He ventured to point out that this Amendment was a trap, and some of the supporters of the Government seemed likely to fall into it. They did not appear to appreciate that this was an attempt to get behind what the Committee had decided on the previous day. What would happen would be that in the case of a by-election every out voter could choose the particular constituency as the selected place at which he should record his vote. The Amendment was a mere trick to get behind a previous decision of the Committee. They had only to look at it to see that at once. There was an alteration in the words, but in practice it was the same proposition as had been put before the Committee once before and rejected.

*Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said he was glad to be able to give a complete confirmation to what had been said by the hon. Member for Perth. The statement the hon. Member made to the Committee was absolutely true, that in large working class constituencies where workmen were moving constantly about as they did in the course of their work they were frequently to be found to be registered in more than one district. He thought the simple way of dealing with this matter would be for the presiding officer to ask a man when he came up to register whether he had voted in any other constituency during the current year. The interval of time which was now taken up in turning up the register, or even the time taken by the presiding officer to impress the seal would be amply sufficient to ask the voter if he had voted before. He could quite appreciate the fact, as stated by the hon. Member for East Manchester, with regard to the penalties not being sufficient to deter many enthusiastic politicians from voting in more than one place. He had heard of a constituency where the Liberals, early in the day, polled all the Conservative deads and absent, and when those had been exhausted, proceeded to poll all their own deads and absent so that if by any chance a doubt was thrown upon the genuineness of the votes by one of the supposed absentee voters turning up later and claiming to vote, it was impossible to check or otherwise examine these votes, except by the expensive method of an election petition and a scrutiny. In practice, therefore, they had all these false votes adopted. In a case of that kind some protection was certainly needed. It was not the man who went, at the risk of a prosecution, from London to John of Groats to poll a second vote against whom protection was needed. There was another point: if a person had two qualifications it implied that he had more or less substantial interests in each district where he was qualified to vote. Why in a case of that kind should not he, perfectly honestly, exercise an alternative vote provided that he did not claim to exercise the second vote upon the current year's register? To make a man select some months in advance would not only disfranchise him in the case instanced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but also disfranchise him over and over again through the accident of not being able to get to the place where he had elected to vote on a particular day. He hoped for the sake of fairness the Government would consider whether or not, after all, they could not obtain their object by less drastic measures than those proposed in the sub-section now under discussion.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) expressed the opinion that no sound argument had been adduced against the proposition of the hon. Member for Kingston. The hon. Member for East Manchester had made a speech to which he evidently saw the answer when halfway through. If his statement was correct, it was the most scathing indictment against the Bill that could possibly be conceived, because his contention was that, however severe the penalties might be, men would risk their liberty for two years in order to record a vote in Manchester and other places as well as London at the time of an election. He did not think it was likely, but if it was true, how did the Bill deal with it? Let them assume that a plural voter had a vote in six constituencies. As the hon. Member for East Manchester had pointed out, the only place at which he could be detected was the place at which he was entitled to vote; that if he polled at each of the other five places there was nothing to differentiate him from any other voter. That was a most scathing indictment of the Bill, and the reason of it was obvious. The right hon. Gentleman, as well, in all probability, as those who drafted the Bill, had been misled by a knowledge of the principle of municipal voting where every place in which a man was not allowed to vote was starred, and the only place which was not starred was that where he was allowed to vote. What was the argument put forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer why this simple scheme should be chosen? The right hon. Gentleman had said it was necessary in the constituency at the beginning of the year to know the number of people who were likely to vote. That was the fallacy into which the hon. Member for East Manchester had been betrayed, in a different form. The plural voter with six votes would star himself in the constituency in which he elected to vote, but in the other five constituencies there was nothing to differentiate him from any other voter. And who was going to total up the available number of voters in a particular constituency on the 1st of January? Even if some ardent politician did so, he would find nothing at all to differentiate the plural voter from anybody else. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider these matters, and would bear in mind that the endeavour of the Committee was so to send this measure from this House as to carry out the straightforward principle which was in the mind of the Government, namely, to prevent people voting in more than one place during one election.

Mr. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) considered the Committee was entitled to an answer, if not to the arguments adduced on the Opposition side, at any rate to the arguments addressed to the Government by their own supporters. The hon. Member for Perth had stated from experience that hundreds and even thousands of working men might be upon a register without their knowledge, and no contradiction or attempt at contradiction to that statement had been made. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that if a man was not able to answer the question as to whether he was on any other register he would be disfranchised; therefore the effect of this Bill in its present condition would be to disfranchise in a wholesale manner. The hon. Member for East Manchester had indicted the Bill most severely, and had pointed out that the only way to prevent the mischief at which it was aimed was that there should be a negative declaration, namely, that on the lists in respect of the places where the elector was not entitled to vote he should be marked "not entitled to vote." One would have imagined that the Bill would have contained some such provision. He would ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that disfranchisement would ensue in such a state of things as had been pointed out by the hon. Member for Perth, and whether he contemplated leaving this Bill in such a condition that men of all classes might be disfranchised without any blame whatever attaching to them.

Mr. HARCOURT hoped and believed the right hon. Gentleman had rather exaggerated the danger to a very small class. He could not believe there were hundreds and thousands of working men who were plural voters without their knowledge. But assuming a working man did not know he was a plural voter and said "no" in answer to the question that was put, and a ballot paper was issued to him, there was no doubt that the man had unconsciously committed an offence under this Bill. If it were subsequently discovered that he had a duplicate qualification, somebody might wish to proceed against him, but he did not think that he could do so, because the man was absolutely protected by the word "knowingly." The plural voter would be known, because in every case, except where he was on the register for his residence, his address would appear on the register, and the place would be different from that of the majority in that division. Therefore, although he was not starred, when he applied for a voting paper he would be a very proper person to whom to put the question. If, as he believed would happen in a great number of cases throughout the country, men selected to vote for their homes, it would be apparent in every other case that they were plural voters.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought that the right hon. Gentleman had succeeded in proving what was sufficiently obvious before, that anyone who was conspicuous would not vote more than once, but there were great numbers of people who would run no risk of detection in so doing. One of two things would happen. Either they would remain plural voters in spite of this Bill, or somebody would discover the fact, and then, although fully qualified, they would be disfranchised. Was the Government really going to leave the Bill in that position? What would be the result? In every closely-fought election it would become worth while, as it had never been worth while before, to have a scrutiny. The services of every available agent would be utilised in tracing men who had possibly not had their names removed from registers in other constituencies, and although their votes probably turned the election they might be disqualified on a scrutiny, and the real voice of the constituency vitiated, not because they were not entitled to a vote or because the Government wished them not to have a vote, but because the Government had blundered into a mess, to get out of which they had not the courage. That was not the end of the trouble. Hitherto in cases where the register had been sharply fought by political agents those agents had endeavoured to strike off anyone they knew to be an opponent. It would now be to their interest to keep him on. He would take his own case to illustrate his remarks. He had himself changed his residence, but all books of reference still gave his address as 11, Downing-street. The Liberal agents might tell the Home Secretary who now inhabited that house that it was useless for a Liberal to elect to vote in Westminster, and they would leave the register unamended. They would also say, "We will take care, if Mr. Austen Chamberlain goes to vote anywhere else and says he is not a plural voter, to let it be known he has committed an offence." Thus by the oversight of an overseer he would stand liable under this Bill to be sent to prison for two years hard labour, and, if he survived the sentence, he would be deprived of all civil rights for seven years. The right hon. Gentleman told him he need not be afraid because he must "knowingly" commit the offence; but yesterday the right hon. Gentleman told him that ignorance was no excuse in the eyes of the law, and he carried that doctrine to the point of saying that in a particular case he ought to be well informed of the provisions of some law because a relative of his took a part in the making of that law. If Judges and magistrates acted upon the principles of the right hon. Gentleman he did not think the word "knowingly" would give much protection. Why should a man be subjected to the worst penalties contained in the Bill, or even to such a penalty as disfranchisement, in connection with an offence against which he could not protect himself unless he went round to see that his name was removed from the voters' lists in places where he had had a vote? That was the obligation placed upon him.

MR. HARCOURT: The obligation is to make a selection.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that he first needed to know whether he had any cause to make a selection. Was every voter to send in a declaration on the chance of that being the case? The Government were needlessly, for the purpose they had in view, inflicting hardship upon men possessed of more than one qualification.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 343; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 332.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden. Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir

Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn W.C.B.(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirS.Williams(Devonp'rt
Berridge, T. H. D
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Waldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E, Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Arancis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, SirT.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J.(S.Pancras, W.
Corbett, CH. (Sussex, E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H. (St.PancrasN.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col.Alan(Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn.Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt, Hon. Lewis
Hardie. J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughness, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James;(Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk, E
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G.Scott(Brad'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roes, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, A.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley(Southamp'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W.(Hull, W.)
Wison, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesborough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cory, Clifford John
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt-Col.A.R.
Long, Col.Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty

Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C. B.Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE moved to insert after the word "except," in line 8, the words, "in a constituency in which he resides, or, in the event of his not residing in any of the constituencies in which he is registered, or of his residing in more than one constituency, then except." This proposal, he said, was entirely different from that which the Committee had just divided upon, though the arguments with regard to it followed the same line. Many of the difficulties had been anticipated in the speeches on the previous Amendment. A great many of the points which were material to the one debate were also material to the other. His proposal was as near to a residential proposal as they could come, in order to give effect to what the Government desired, namely, not to take away the vote from any person who had more than one vote at the present time. The difficulties of all the schemes came from the complexity of our franchise, and from the refusal of this country to consider a single and simple franchise. Almost every country in the world except our own had a simple franchise. Here there were seventeen well-known franchises, and as long as we piled one on the top of the other, these difficulties must continue. With one exception, involving a slight complication which he had guarded against, he proposed, by the Amendment, to make a man vote in the constituency where he resided. The elector would be automatically and effectively on the register there. Some people had several residences, and in these cases the provisions of the Bill would come into force in determining the constituency selected for the purpose of exercising the vote. "Residence," which was the feature of this Amendment, was not a vague word. It was used in a whole series of Acts of Parliament, it was the basis of a large number of the present franchises, and the exact sense of it had been decided by judgments in the Courts explaining the statutes in which it occurred. The exception which he had provided for by putting in words to cover it was the rare case of a man who was a plural voter and who had several qualifications, but no residence in any of the places where he had a qualification. The plan he suggested was simple as compared with the complicated plan of the Bill. The objection to the application of the machinery of the Bill was the want of knowledge on the part of the county clerk. That official would have no machinery by which he would be enabled to know how to discharge the duties which the House seemed to think he ought to discharge. Now he came to a question, which he could state briefly. There had been, not an absolute promise of acceptance of the proposal, but a promise that consideration would be given to the proposal that the Bill should state exactly what the duties of the county clerk were really to be. Under the present registration laws claims which were supposed to be signed by the voter himself were rarely so signed. They wanted to know what the county clerk would have before him. The difficulties in connection with the working of the Bill would be greatly diminished by confining the operation of the measure to the smallest possible number of cases. If they had an automatic means of selection covering the great majority of the cases, then the danger of the Bill would be much less. What he suggested was that under the scheme in the Bill it would really be impossible to enforce the law. There had been in the debate a fair amount of admission of the truth of the facts alleged against the complexity of the Bill. His hon. friend the Member for Stoke seemed to have some doubts as to the way in which the working-class would be placed in a difficulty by the Bill. He could understand how these doubts arose. In the building and some other trades, as in the case also of some Nonconformist ministers, people were not long enough in one place to qualify. One point which had not been thoroughly brought out was that the county clerk had no means of obtaining information where the notice was of a character to leave him in doubt. That objection would be diminished to an enormous extent by the adoption of some automatic machinery of the kind he referred to. The notice sent to the county clerk might be such as to raise doubts as to the identification of the voter. There were sometimes differences between a voter's description of himself and the description which appeared on the register. For example, there were many cases in which the addresses did not exactly tally, and many in which the Christian names slightly differed or contained one usually omitted. How in such cases was the county clerk going to be sure as to the person from whom he received a notice? There were often many voters of one name and address on the register. In an agricultural parish in his own division there were some voters who, much to their own offence, had to be distinguished by their nicknames. A man who had several residences was not the man as a rule in regard to whom these difficulties would arise. It had been suggested that those difficulties were unconsciously exaggerated by those who took part in the debates. He did not think the Committee quite realised the complexity of the work which our present franchise system involved, in respect of registration. There were a large number of cases of complexity disclosed by his examination in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and Herefordshire parishes, and the danger was, that the county clerk, although written to about the choice of a constituency, would not take any action whatever where the matter was not clear. There were a great number of cases where sons had the same names as their fathers, although they might belong to two different political parties. He knew of two adjoining parishes in two counties where there were five duplicates on the register in which difficulties arose. The difficulty of sorting out these cases was exceedingly great. By the machinery of the Bill, as it existed in its present form, one of the greatest difficulties would be the cancelling of notice once given. There were 3,000 colliers freeholders in the division of Rhondda, and 200 out of these 3,000 worked in the Rhondda Valley of whom a few were on the register there, and if this Amendment was not carried these men would have to cancel their notice beforehand before they could give a vote. But if they gave a vote without notice he doubted whether any jury would convict them for personation. He admitted that this Amendment would require further machinery to carry it into effect. He had drawn Amendments to that end, but these would involve so much re-shaping of the Bill that he doubted if it would be possible for the Government to agree to them. He could not take the responsibility of trying to force this Amendment on the Government on the present occasion, but he hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Government as a whole, would give their minds to the endeavour to meet, in some way or another, the many difficulties which surrounded this question. He saw no way of doing that unless some such machinery of residence as he had suggested were adopted. County clerks and others responsible for the register would have to give a somewhat wooden interpretation of the law, but if the liberty proposed were given to them the difficulties to which he had referred might be overcome to a large extent.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'except' to insert the words 'in a constituency in which he resides, or, in the event of his not residing in any of the constituencies in which he is registered, or of his residing in more than one constituency, then except'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said that the right hon. Gentleman knew very well that personally and in theory he did not differ from his view, and that he would wish to found the franchise entirely on residence. But the Government had decided, and had given him instructions that he was not to introduce a disfranchising Bill. They would not quibble over words, but the purpose of the Bill was not to abolish the property qualification. He had not done it because any man who opted in that way might exercise his property qualification. The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, however, it was impossible to incorporate in this Bill, conceived as it was on a totally different plan.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that he would give every man one vote, and that the object of his Amendment was to enable a man at once to exercise his vote.

MR. HARCOURT said he had tried to be as tender as he could to the property owner while adhering to the definite object and principle of the Bill—that a man should only vote in one place during the calendar year. He quite agreed with the right hon. Baronet that their great object should be to have as clean a register as possible. He admitted that this Bill might not secure that object, but he thought it made an approach to it. He did not understand the anxiety of the right hon. Gentleman that a notice should be sent to the man himself. He had already promised to consider whether the notice should be changed to a declaration, although he did not know whether a declaration would confer any great gain. He had promised, however, to consider it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would consider the question of working this matter through the revising barrister's court, or whether it could be done through the assistant overseers.

MR. HARCOURT said he could not do that, because the whole essence of this Bill was not to change the law in regard to registration. It was purely a question of typography and not of registration.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the work of indicating the voting place of a plural voter was at present done by the revising barrister.

MR. HARCOURT said he did not bring in the revising barrister at all. The revising barrister had no right to say where a plural voter should vote, or whether he should have a vote or not. The plural voter had a right to claim where he should vote, and the mark indicating where he should vote was put on by the printer. He understood from the right hon. Baronet that he wished for an expression of opinion on this subject, but it had nothing to do with the proposed Amendment.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that, although he did not wish to bind anybody else, he should not press the Amendment to a division, but if anybody else forced a division he should, of course, vote for his proposal. He pointed out, as to the work falling on the county clerk, that the only work of a similar kind carried out at present was done in the revision court under the eye of the public. The county clerk had neither the machinery nor the knowledge imposed on the court of the revising barristers.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) was glad that this proposal had been brought forward, because the residential vote was what they had been asking for for years and years. He contended that a man should vote where he lived, and nowhere else, a system that would pave the way for the abolition of the period of qualification. It had always been a great grievance, that if a man moved from one constituency to another he lost his vote for the year. If we had this residential qualification the register might be made up like the census, and no man would be disfranchised by his change of residence. He should have more respect for the contention of hon. Members opposite if they were bold enough to claim that a man should have so many votes for so many acres of land, or so many votes for so many hundreds of pounds a year. That would be logical, but the present system under which men obtained plural qualifications in different parts of the country was not logical at all. According to our constitution a man should only have one vote, and he thought the cases in which the dual residence difficulty would come in would be very few indeed, while the cases which had been alluded to of the men who had qualifications all over the country and no residence, might be counted upon the fingers of one hand. He recognised the difficulties which had been referred to, and that it was impossible for his right hon. friend to press his Motion to a division. He did hope, however, that residential suffrage would some day be the law of land.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the interesting discussions on the last two Amendments had put the Committee in a considerable difficulty. The speech of the right hon. Baronet had lent great weight to a number of conclusions. No man in the House, and he doubted whether there was a man in the country, had been able to devote the time to acquire the minute knowledge which the right hon. Baronet had displayed in the course of the discussion. No man was a greater authority than the right hon. Baronet on these questions, and he confessed that the wealth of the detailed information he possessed as to minute points of procedure made the right hon. Gentleman, in his judgment, an absolute master of the subject. But the conclusion to be drawn from the discussion of the last two Amendments was that the Bill as at present framed was unworkable. The scheme of the Government might be carried out on lines suggested by his hon. friend behind him (Mr. Cave), because the Bill would be modified to the extent of leaving all the existing franchises, restricting the power of any individual to one vote at one election. He did not agree with the plan of the right hon. Baronet, because in the first place it wholly destroyed the University vote, and it could not be incorporated in the Government Bill without revolutionising its whole structure and practically making it a new measure. But the alternative presented in the last two Amendments had been rejected, and the Government plan was left. By the admission of every competent speaker on the Liberal side of the House it was an unworkable plan. It was a plan which the right hon. Gentleman had riddled from top to bottom, and it was impossible to believe that the system they were about to adopt was a workable system. The hon. Member for North Norfolk had said that he welcomed the suggestion because he was in favour of giving a man a vote for the place in which he resided and for nothing else. By his own admission, however, it would be years before that was carried out. He dissented from the policy of the right hon. Gentleman, and ventured to point out to him that he himself had recognised that it could not be grafted on to the policy of the Government, and admitted that the plan of the Government was not a plan that could be worked at all. Was not that an extraordinary position for the Committee to find itself in after two days discussion upon this Bill, when they had not penetrated very far into its machinery and had no knowledge of that part of the machinery which was to be made public in the hitherto unpublished Order in Council. The present position was that the Government would not take the workable plan which could be drafted on to their Bill and which had been suggested in the Amendment; they could not take the suggestion of the right hon. Baronet, because it would destroy the Bill from top to bottom; and they were left with a plan of their own, which their own best supporters, and those who knew most about the registration law, declared to be impossible in practice, as well as capable of working great injustice in the way of disfranchising perfectly competent electors and possibly bringing them within reach of the criminal law. That was an impossible situation. The Government must feel that they could hardly successfully proceed with the measure. The right hon. Gentleman in charge must feel that he had embarked on an impossible task; that he had undertaken to do that which could not be done, and which, at any rate, the Bill did not do. It was a waste of Parliamentary time to proceed with the consideration of a measure which its friends admitted no alteration could make a practicable and workable Bill.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD thought that Members on both sides of the House would regret that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had not seen his way to lend a more sympathetic ear to the suggestions made to him. Had the right hon. Baronet pressed this Motion to a division, he should have supported him. Experience had shown that in all large towns people were continually moving out and residing in the suburbs at some considerable distance from their places of business. The result was that that class of duplicate voters tended largely to increase. The Amendment which had been moved with such lucidity by the right hon. Baronet at all events provided a remedy for the difficulty which arose with regard to them. It might not be the best remedy, but it was, at least, one remedy. The effect of the Bill as it stood would be that this increasing class of duplicate voters, if they did not send in their notice of selection, would be disfranchised. Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite scarcely seemed to realise that fact.

Viscount TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) called attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present.

House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, continuing, said his sympathy was not so much with those duplicate voters, who were keen politicians. Those gentlemen would be taken care of, and their claims sent in. His sympathy was with that large class who were not active politicians, who would forget or neglect to fill up these notices. There were upwards of 2,000 of these duplicate voters in a constituency which he had in his mind, and he was confident that at least half of them, not being keen and active politicians, would, through not filling up and sending in these notices, be disfranchised and lose their votes altogether. It was a monstrous proposition that a man should be disfranchised and deprived of his vote altogether in this way, when a man, qualified to vote only in one place, required to send in no notice at all. He contended that so long as the Bill was left in its present shape, and they were met with the position he had described, so long it would not be possible to introduce into it any reasonable Amendment to make it workable. He believed that this Amendment, which was to be withdrawn, would have done something to meet the difficulty, and he very much regretted that the right hon. Baronet had not pressed it to a division.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said they must regard the Amendment as the best of a bad thing. He was so convinced that this Bill would be a disfranchising measure that he preferred to accept the Amendment sooner than let the Bill go through in the way evidently intended by the Government, without any Amendment of any sort or kind.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he desired to call the attention of the Committee to the conduct of Ministers during the very powerful and eloquent speech of the Leader of the Opposition. He thought it was unprecedented that the Treasury Bench should have been practically deserted. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had fled from the attack of the Leader of the Opposition and left a subordinate Minister in his place. The Bill had been absolutely riddled by the criticism directed against it, both on the Opposition and on the Ministerial side, and in view of the extraordinary conduct of the front Government Bench he moved to report progress. It was little short of a scandal that there should not have been a single Cabinet Minister left in charge of the Bill.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. JOHN ELLIS, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said it would be within the knowledge of the hon. Gentleman, and particularly of that of the Leader of the Opposition, that there was usually a paucity of attendance, even on the front Ministerial Bench, during the dinner hour. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that his right hon. friend in charge of the Bill, who it was generally acknowledged had met the Committee in a spirit of great assiduity and courtesy, would be back in a few minutes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said everybody must recognise that a Minister, however zealous, must dine, and the strain of conducting a great Bill, as he himself knew, was very considerable, especially when it was carried on day after day. It was impossible under such circumstances to expect any Minister to sit there the whole time, nor would it be necessary if the Ministers who had been replying to the criticisms had come to some arrangement—as was made for instance that very evening between his hon. friend the Member for East Worcestershire and himself—so that both should not be absent from the House at the same time. He need hardly say that he had no personal feeling in the matter, but it was the fact that he made a speech twenty minutes ago based on the very important debate which had just preceded it, pointing out the impossible position into which the Government had got themselves, and the impracticability of their scheme. He was sure no discourtesy was meant towards him, but it certainly showed want of organisation on the Treasury Bench or the necessity for some improvement in the rules of the House. It was not proper that the Treasury Bench should at any time be left deprived of those in charge of the measure.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR said that Mr. Massingham, writing a short time ago in the *Daily News*, had described the present House of Commons as the most strenuous that had ever been elected, and that it was determined to work at all cost. Yet on this Bill, which was one of the most important Bills of the session, there was only one Member of the Government on the Treasury Bench, and only three supporters behind. One of their supporters in a recent speech in the country said the Government ought to be congratulated for the number of Bills they succeeded in getting through Parliament during the earlier part of the session, and that they were largely enabled to do so because the Government and the Liberal Party did not hesitate to legislate during the dinner hour. If the Liberal Party, and especially the Government, wished to live up to the representation of being the most strenuous Government of modern times it would be as well if more than one Member of the Government could be present when the Leader of the Opposition was making an important speech on an Amendment to an important Bill. He sincerely hoped the Committee would accept the Motion to report progress.

MR. HARCOURT said he should not have thought it was necessary to deal with a Motion to report progress, on the ground that a Minister was merely mortal.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said the Motion was not proposed because of the absence of the right hon. Gentleman, against whom they had no cause of complaint, but because a most elaborate and convincing speech was delivered by the Leader of the Opposition whilst the only occupant of the front Ministerial Bench was an Under-Secretary, and there were only three Members behind to support him.

MR. HARCOURT said he was only mortal, and had found it necessary to leave the House for a short time. If he had known the Leader of the Opposition was going to speak he would have remained at whatever inconvenience. To say that his colleague, who had been rightly described as an Under-Secretary—that was no disgrace—was not associated with him in regard to the Bill merely because he had not taken part in debate was incorrect. The right hon. Gentleman had been associated with him from the first, and had equal knowledge with, in fact he believed superior knowledge to, himself of the details of the Bill. He could not allow for a moment a reflection for which there was no ground to be made against a right hon. Gentleman whose name was on the back of the Bill.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was sure nothing could have been further from his hon. friend's intention than to reflect on the competency of the right hon. Gentleman. At the same time the right hon. Gentleman who had had charge of the Bill would have felt a liberty in dealing with Amendments, and a power of accepting suggestions, that did not belong to somebody who was neither a Cabinet Minister nor the Minister directly in charge of the Bill. Had the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill or the Chancellor of the Exchequer been in the House when the Leader of the Opposition spoke, he could not conceive that the speech would have been allowed to pass without reply. He thought this incident illustrated the unsatisfactory character of the change abolishing the regular dinner hour. The House was not more industrious because it had no dinner hour. They worked no more hours. All the change did was to allow hon. Members to go home earlier. It simply meant that the Minister in charge of a Bill, who would be present during the whole of the discussion if he were allowed half an hour for his dinner, was now away for half an hour during the discussion, and was not therefore able to answer the criticisms made in his absence.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that a most destructive, damaging criticism had been made of the Bill, and there had been no attempt to meet it. It must be clear to everybody that it was time the Government recast the Bill or put down some Amendments in order to meet this damaging criticism. Under the circumstances it would be in the best interest of all parties, and in the interests of the Bill itself, that this Motion should be accepted. The Government ought to have time to take the whole situation into consideration.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith), in supporting the Motion, said that all this trouble would not have arisen if the Committee knew when the Order in Council was likely to be laid on the Table ; it was perfectly clear it would be better for the Government to state when that would be done.

MR. T. L. CORBETT, in asking leave to withdraw the Motion, said that in making it he had been influenced by the feelings natural to one who had heard the powerful speech of the Leader of the Opposition, and had seen that only one person on the Treasury Bench and three or four supporters of the Government appeared to listen to it.

MR. J. WARD said the grievance was not all on one side. Never during the evening had there been more than seven on the Opposition Benches.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR: We are more than seven now.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the Motion was made because, when an important speech was delivered, there did not appear to be any Minister present who had authority to deal with the Bill, and what other Members of the House were present was not to the point. All the Opposition asked for was——

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.), rising to a point of order, asked whether arguments were not being unduly repeated, and whether the rules of the House did not come into operation to put an end to such repetition.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he had been under the impression that the Motion was to be withdrawn, and that the matter would accordingly terminate. There had been some repetition by the last speaker, but he hoped the matter might terminate reasonably.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he would not have spoken again but for the interruption of the hon. Gentleman below the Gangway. He had merely intended to express the hope that the Government would be able so to organise the dining arrangements that one of the Ministers in practical charge of a Bill should be in attendance in the House when important speeches were made.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) considered that the Leader of the Opposition had been treated in an insulting manner, and hoped the Motion would not be withdrawn. The Chancellor of the Exchequer came in behind the Chair, saw the Leader of the Opposition speaking, saw that there was no Cabinet Minister on the Treasury Bench, and then went out. Under the circumstances he was sorry that the hon. Member proposed to withdraw his Motion.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER supported the Amendment. In his own constituency there were more than 5,000 voters who would be affected by this Bill, and of that number at least one half were electors who took no particular side in politics, but were influenced on the questions of the day as they arose. Under the Bill as it stood those voter would undoubtedly be disfranchised, for it was absolutely impossible for an agent to take sufficient interest in them to put in their claims before an election came on. This Amendment distinctly protected those people by saying that they were to be on the list of voters where they had their place of abode. It was perfectly true that the University was to be put on one side, but he preferred the interests of a borough constituency even to those of a University. He totally objected to the wholesale disfranchisement which this Bill would effect.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN moved to insert in line 11, after "Act," the words "or in which he is registered as a voter in respect of his place of abode." He hoped that this was an Amendment which the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would find himself able to accept. The right hon. Gentleman had refused to accept a large number of Amendments on the ground that they challenged the principle of the Bill. This Amendment did not challenge the principle of the Bill. It followed the established precedent in the case of borough voters who had more than one qualification in the same borough, and, therefore, he looked for a benevolent attitude towards it on the part of the right hon. Gentleman. The object of the Amendment was obvious. It was to prevent wholesale disfranchisement of voters who neglected to select. In the case of voters in boroughs who had more than one qualification they had only to exercise the power of selection if they desired to vote in some place other than that in which they resided. If they were content to vote in the constituency where they had their place of abode they were automatically placed on the register. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to apply that principle to this Bill. Not being a lawyer or a draughtsman he was aware that the words of his Amendment might not be sufficient to cover the purpose he had in view, but if the right hon. Gentleman accepted the proposal the words necessary to meet the case could be found by the right hon. Gentleman, who had the assistance of skilled draughtsmen. His proposal, which was absolutely just, would prevent the disfranchisement of those people who either had no knowledge of a second qualification, or had not taken the trouble to serve the necessary notices.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'Act,' to insert the words 'or in which he is registered as a voter in respect of his place of abode.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT asked whether the word "or" in the Amendment meant "and."

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN replied in the negative. He had consulted a legal friend as to whether a voter could possibly vote in both constituencies. His legal friend said that the voter could not. If that raised a difficulty he would gladly add to the Amendment "but not in both."

MR. HARCOURT said he merely wanted to clear away that difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman's Amendment would destroy the necessity for selection —a question which the Committee had already decided on the previous Amendment. By this Amendment the right hon. Gentleman would not compel a voter to make a selection, and if the voter did not make a selection he must then vote in the constituency where he had his place of abode. It was obvious that as long as a man remained in his house he could vote on that residence qualification whether he resided in Worcestershire or whether he were in the unfortunate condition of the right hon. Gentleman of having a residence in London. The Amendment was directed entirely in favour of those who had the advantage of many residences. The Amendment meant that there should be a class distinction drawn between those people who had not influence or money, and those who in the counties or boroughs had a number of residential qualifications. He insisted that the Amendment ran counter to the principle of the Bill. Why should the revising barrister have to decide what was a permanent residence? When they tried to work the matter out, he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would see that his Amendment was one which could not be accepted.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that he was not trying to secure more than one vote for one man, but only that if that man failed in time to make a selection he should not on that account be disfranchised. In other words, he contended that a man with more than one qualification should not be placed in a worse position than a man with only one qualification, who was not required to do anything. Even in the case of a lodger, although the law said that the lodger must make application every year to be placed on the register, he was retained on the register, as a rule, unless someone objected. The right hon. Gentleman had complained that if they gave a vote to the occupier for every residence he possessed that man might have an unlimited number of votes; but, would the right hon. Gentleman accept the principle that if a man did not specially claim to be put on the register of a particular constituency, he should have the right to vote in the place where his principal residence and home was? He was quite willing, although he had taken the words of his Amendment from the Registration Act of 1883, to add words which would make it perfectly clear that a man should only vote once. What he wanted was that a special disability should not be imposed on a man who had more than one residence.

Mr. HARCOURT said that it was absolutely impossible to accept the Amendment, which would run counter to the principle of the Bill. It would completely destroy the necessity of selection, which he regarded as of great importance.

Mr. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) said he could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman would not accept the principle of the Amendment. Did he contend that no one was to be entitled to vote unless he took the trouble to ask to be placed on the register? If that were so, they must put some compulsion on every man to demand the right to vote. There was no justification whatever for enacting that a man who had two qualifications, if he did not make a selection as to where he would vote, should have no vote at all. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Amendment would be perfectly unworkable, but he did not see how it would be more unworkable than the procedure to obtain a lodger vote. Really, hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to think that in some way or other they on that side of the House were trying to get an advantage. Nothing of the kind. The Amendment of his right hon. friend amounted to this, that a man had a right to a vote without making a special claim to it. The refusal of the Amendment was absolutely indefensible.

Viscount TURNOUR said he could not see how the acceptance of this Amendment would in any way injure the principle of the Bill, and no good argument had been brought forward against it.

Mr. DUNN (Cornwall, Camborne) said that this was an exceedingly dangerous Amendment, for whatever might be the intention of the right hon. Gentleman in moving it, it would prove of considerable advantage to the plural voter. It was quite clear that by the Amendment when an election came on a plural voter would have a choice as to which constituency he should vote. The intention of the mover might have been to get away from it, but the result was to give a double vote to the plural voter, and such a course was dangerous in the eyes of those who desired to see these anomalies done away with.

*Mr. ROBERT PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek) said that during the last thirty years he had been engaged in making and using voting lists in almost every capacity, and he thought that further consideration should be given to the selection by the plural voter in an automatic way. In the City of London it would be found that far more than half the persons on the list had only business premises in the City but had a residence outside it. The registration officers, the overseers, and the revising barristers would, in spite of the fact that there were two qualifications, be obliged to put a person carrying on business in the City on the City List. The name of the person would, however, also appear on the lists of voters for the place in which he resided. By reference to the City List one should be able to know whether he had a vote for the City or not. The consequence of the proposed system would be that when an election took place everybody concerned would have to go through the list, and compare it with other lists and would have to strike out perhaps three-quarters of the names as being those of persons not qualified to vote. That would lead to great confusion, and omitting liverymen the list of voters would resolve itself into a mere list of the caretakers who had charge of the premises. At election times when people were expected to vote for "Balfour" and "Banbury," they would not look out for qualifications which would interfere with their doing so. It seemed to him that the Government could hit upon a plan, though not by the words of the Amendment, by which the lists should still be conclusive. Whenever the address of the residence differed from that of the qualifying premises, a man would not be entitled to vote, and by omitting or marking that name they would get, if not a perfect list, an approximately perfect list which would be useful on the day of election and not a list which would be misleading. It was possible to have such a list in every constituency all over the country. He hoped that the

Government, after the suggestions from that side of the House, would endeavour to secure some automatic mode of selection, so that at times of elections it would be known who was entitled to vote.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said hon. Members opposite had put a meaning into the Amendment which it did not bear. It struck at the root of the difference which existed between the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill and hon. Members on both sides of the House, because it was obvious that a large portion of the Committee were desirous of making it perfectly clear that a man, simply because he had a plural qualification, whether through defect of political organisation or any other cause, was not to be disfranchised altogether. He thought that the Amendment put it as clearly as it possibly could be put, that where a man happened to work in one place and to reside in another, and failed through absence from home or other cause to make a selection as to where he would vote, he should be put on the list in regard to his place of abode and would in any event find himself on the register and able to vote. He maintained that the Bill should be so worded that a man having a qualification in two places should not, because one or the other political organisation was inefficient, or because the clerk of the council was inefficient, lose his vote. They desired that every person, whether rich or poor, should be treated exactly alike, and if a man was entitled to two or three votes he should be assured that when an election came round that, neither through his own fault nor through the fault of other people, he would be debarred from going to the poll to record his vote. He thought it was very clear, from the voices that had been heard from the other side of the House as well as from that side, that some Amendment of this kind was necessary. The Amendment might possibly require some alteration in terms, but he hoped the Government would give an assurance that they would introduce something upon the Report stage to give the voter the protection which had been asked for.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said that so far as he was aware the Londoners' point of view had not been put in regard to this Amendment. The Londoner was not in the position of the man who lived in a large provincial town. He ordinarily worked in one place and lived in another, and was entitled to a vote in one or the other or both of the places with which he was associated. Under the obligation which this Bill would create, the Londoner would be in a still greater fog than at present, and whether he was an employer or a workman who lived in one place and worked in another, he ought not to find that by some oversight on his part, or on the part of the officials of the local authorities concerned, he was deprived of his vote, and not only deprived of his vote, but subjected to penalties and imprisonment if he voted without knowing that he was bound to make a selection. He believed he reflected the views of all Parties when he said it was the wish and desire of the House that every man in the country who was entitled to a vote should be able to record that vote. He therefore hoped his right hon. friend in charge of the Bill would either accept the Amendment or give an undertaking that at a later stage words should be inserted in the Bill, to ensure that a man should be entitled, notwithstanding his neglect to select under this Bill, to vote in the district in which he resided. An hon. Member had said it was a little difficult to realise why if the motives supposed to animate the authors of this Bill did really animate them, the right hon. Gentleman should resist the Amendment before the Committee, or not give some assurance that the Bill would be amended in the spirit of the Amendment. The essential object of the Bill was to prevent a man voting more than once in one election. All that this Amendment would do would be to bring this result about, that if a man failed to make a selection he would not thereby be disfranchised. If the object of this Bill was to disfranchise as many persons as possible, then the opposition to this Amendment could be understood, but if its object was what it purported to be, then the Amendment had every claim to sympathetic consideration even of the most earnest advocate of the Bill. The adoption of such an Amendment would have the effect of enabling a man to be placed automatically on the register of the district in which he resided. The saving thus effected in money and labour, the uncertainty and anxiety to many in this country no one in the House could fail to realise. Everyone knew how difficult it was to persuade people to make their claims. If that was so now, how much more difficult would it be to make them select the district in which they should vote.

*MR. COURTHOPE complained that the hon. Member for the Camborne Division of Cornwall had inaccurately read the section to which this Amendment was moved and also the Amendment. If hon. Members would read the section and the Amendment in conjunction it would be found abundantly clear that the second alternative provided by the Amendment would not have any effect unless the plural voter had failed to make a selection It only applied in that one contingency. If he had made a selection, he had made it for good and had to abide by it for the year. If he had failed to make it, then the Amendment said he still had a right to that qualification which his residence gave him. If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was honest in his statement that this was not to be a Bill for disfranchisement, then he could not refuse this Amendment. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider this matter, and would admit that this Amendment would not damage the principle of the Bill in any degree whatsoever. If the right hon. Gentleman did not make that admission, the only conclusion they could come to was that he was not honest in his statement that the Bill was not intended to be a disfranchisement Bill.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby) said that if this Bill had been accompanied by a measure of redistribution he would have been an ardent supporter of it. Having admitted that, he could not understand why the Government did not endeavour to make the Bill just to all people alike. Surely the fact that a person happened to be on the register for five or six different places because he had either property or business interests in those places, should not be a disqualification, but rather a qualification for a vote. If he had only one qualification he would be placed upon the register without any difficulty, but if he had six qualifications then he had to select where he would vote, and if he did not make the selection, he was to be disqualified altogether from voting. Surely that was a wrong principle. It must appeal to the common sense of hon. Members opposite that if a man did not select he should at all events have the same qualification as that possessed by the man who only had a vote at the place where he resided. He regretted very much that the Law Officers of the Crown were not assisting the right hon Gentleman with this Bill. He believed that the Solicitor-General, if he were assisting, such was his love of justice and his knowledge of what was right, would at once admit that the Government ought to accept this Amendment. But they had had no advice from the Law Officers of the Crown. He believed that the description of this Bill as a Liberal Registration Agents' Bill was a correct one. It seemed to him that there was someone behind the Chair pulling the strings with regard to the measure. Why should they not have a simple measure requiring that every voter should be on the register for the place of his abode? Whilst every man should have one vote, and no more, he ought not to have any less. The Bill as it stood would deprive thousands of individuals whose life was given to commerce or other pursuits, and who did not care much about politics on one side or the other, of the protection of the law if they had not selected one place in which to vote. That protection was given to the working man who could vote in the place in which he resided, whereas the merchant could not do so unless he made some arrangement previously.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said that as Members opposite would not deign to reply, being apparently inebriated with the exuberance of their own taciturnity, he proposed, as the Law Officers had been compelled to take no part in the discussion, to answer the speech of his hon. friend who had just spoken. His hon. friend seemed to think this was a Bill to put an end to plural voting. It was nothing of the kind. This was a Bill to amend the criminal law. The preamble did not say a word about plural voting. It was a Bill to impose a penalty on a Parliamentary voter registered in more than one constituency who voted in any constituency except that selected for the purpose. He might be perfectly *bona fide*, but the right hon. Gentleman opposite said that there was not criminal law enough, and although a man was only voting in one constituency, the right hon. Gentleman was determined he should be made a felon unless he made a selection. Before branding such a man as a felon, they ought at least to give him the vote that he ordinarily ought to have, namely, a vote for the residence he occupied. Unless he had served a notice, however, he was disfranchised even as regarded the abode in which he was living. A more monstrous proposition was never put before the House of Commons, and when hon. Members opposite described this as a Bill merely to prevent plural voting, it was merely a dishonest pretence. Let them face the facts. The Bill had been truly described as a Liberal Election Agents' Bill. A man who was abroad serving his country at the time when he ought to be serving his notice, might come home to find, when an election took place, that though he had a residence in the constituency he was disqualified. What, also, was to be said of the man who recovered from sickness to find that he had been deprived of his vote? He supposed one could not say in Parliament all that had occurred to one to say in describing this Bill. But he hoped he was not going beyond Parliamentary language when he said that this was a mean and scurrilous attempt to deprive political opponents of the franchise, and the Bill was not the Bill of a statesman but that of a sneak.

Mr. HARCOURT said he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman was not able to bring to the consideration of the Bill his own inebriate taciturnity and so save himself from the regrets which he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would feel in the morning. The right hon. Gentleman had charged him with thinking that there was not criminal law enough. He had never felt until that moment that they might have criminal lawyers too much. The right hon. Gentleman had said this was a Liberal Election Agents' Bill. He had chosen a bad day to make that statement when an hon. Member most experienced in registration and electoral law had stated that it was quite unsuited to agents' purposes. He would only say on this Amendment that he did not think they were asking too much of the plural voter that he should once in the course of his life make a selection. Under the Bill as it stood every man had eight months in which he might make his selection, and he had already determined to make a further concession, which would meet the case of persons absent abroad on any duty and those who might be sick at home or elsewhere.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 81; Noes, 326. (Division List No. 333.)

## AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington

Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith,F. E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry-(Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

## NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, HnW.C.B.(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats,SirT.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinstd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H. (St.PancrasN.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman, Thomas-Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harvey, A. G.C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardiner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay. (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny )
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N,)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson. W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos (W Monm'th)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradfrd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands. J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, SirC.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

On the figures being announced by the Chairman,

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said: On a point of order. I was in the "Aye" lobby at the division, and when I came through the door I found that the tellers had gone. I spoke to the clerk and told him that my name had not been recorded on the list, and he said he would try to find the tellers. I have reported it to the tellers on the other side, and I wish to know whether my vote can be recorded.

THE CHAIRMAN: If the tellers agree, certainly the hon. Member's name will be added.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I told the tellers that I had seen everybody go through. I did not see the hon. Baronet.

MR. RAWLINSON moved an Amendment to provide that the penalties attaching to any one knowingly acting in contravention of the clause should only be incurred if he acted corruptly

This Amendment would merely carry out what he understood was the intention of the Government. There could not be the slightest harm in adding the words "corruptly and." If the words were added there would then be no doubt that it would not be an offence for a person innocently and unintentionally to demand a vote in contravention of the words of the section. There was the ambiguity which had been referred to by hon. Members on both sides of the House as to the meaning of the words in the clause which ran "and if a person knowingly acts in contravention of this section, he shall be guilty of personation." Therefore, as the clause stood, a person who innocently demanded a vote in one constituency while holding a qualification in another might be held to be guilty of personation if by inadvertence he had not sent notice to the county clerk in order to be properly entered on the register. But a voter in such a case would not be acting corruptly. He could not believe that the Government intended that a person who was not acting corruptly should be punished under this Act.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'corruptly and.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. ASQUITH said he did not think there would be any advantage in inserting these words. In fact the hon. and learned Gentleman might take it from him that there was no word more difficult of definition in law than the word "corruptly." The word "knowingly" was quite sufficient, and he could not see what possible purpose would be served by the addition of the words of the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said the Government had put this somewhat drastic provision in the Bill merely because it was following existing legislation. It was quite true that the existing statutes were not very differently worded from what was proposed to be enacted by this clause, but the Courts had held that in order that the offence should be complete the action must be corrupt. That was held in the Stepney Case—the only case decided on this point at all. He quite agreed that there was a certain ambiguity about the word "corruptly." It had received a great deal of consideration by the Judges, and although the sense of the word was indefinite it had a fairly well-known sense in the legislation on this subject. It meant that a man who claimed a vote not only knew that he was not entitled to vote, but that he had the corrupt intention to cheat the legislature and to cheat the opponent of the candidate whom he supported. He wished to point out that by the clause as it stood if a man merely knew that he had a vote elsewhere.—[Dissent from the GOVERNMENT Benches.] Well, they were agreed that it was presumed that a man knew the law, and that if he had property in another constituency which would give him a vote, he could not exercise that vote except in that constituency in which he was "starred." If the Government did not want to make the Act more drastic than the existing law they should insert the word "corruptly" or some word to indicate a dishonest intention on the part of a man to steal a vote. Personally, he did not feel very much moved by the action of the Government in proposing this legislation; but he strongly urged them to reconsider this matter of drafting, and if they did that they would agree with him that the word "corruptly" should be inserted in this clause.

SIR FREDERIC BANBURY said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the language in the Amendment had very little meaning. No one knew better than the right hon. Gentleman what certain words meant, and there were no words in the English language which could raise a clearer meaning than the word "corruptly." Unless some such word were inserted in the clause very considerable hardship would be imposed on many people in this country. Why should not the two eminent lawyers on the Government Bench be able to devise a word instead of "corruptly" which would be understood by the Law Lords on a final appeal to the House of Lords? This was not a Party question. Nobody wished to convict a man unjustly, and what he wanted was that when this Bill passed into law it should not operate detrimentally to an innocent man. They had seen within the last few years what might occur through careless legislation in this House. As instances of the evils of legislating in a hurry he would quote the Taff Vale decision and the West Riding judgment. There was not a single Member who sat in the last Parliament who would not admit that what the lawyers said they had said was not what they meant to say. They should not put themselves in the position of being subjected to any such experience again.

THE SOLICITOR-CENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON) said it had been suggested that they should insert the word "corruptly," but the gist of the matter was that according to the Judges an act was done "corruptly" if it was done knowingly in contravention to the law. That was to say that the person who did the act knowingly intended to break the law. That was the best definition of the word "corruptly" that he could find, and the question of whether a man acted corruptly was one for the jury. Therefore a man who gave an improper vote would not be liable to the penalties of the Act unless he did so knowingly in contravention of that section. It must be found that he knew the law and determined to break it. That was electoral corruption, and it was, therefore, unnecessary to insert the word "corruptly" in the clause.

SIR E. CARSON said that if he agreed to the hon. and learned Member's construction of the word "knowingly" he should say that an Amendment of the clause was not necessary. But he did not think that the hon. and learned Gentleman would on consideration think that his definition of what would be held to be "knowingly" was accurate. Everybody must be assumed to know the law, and up till then he had never heard that it could be a defence for a man to say that he did not know the law. Supposing a man knew that he had two qualifications and that he did not serve the notice. Supposing that he did not know that it was necessary under the law to serve that notice, would he not be liable to conviction? They assumed that everybody knew these franchise laws, whereas he did not suppose there was one in a hundred who knew anything about them, and if a man did not serve the notice he was bound to be, and must be, convicted if prosecuted. It was no use for him to say he did not know the law. If he could avoid conviction by saying so the clause would be quite illusory, because then in every case a man might say he did not know the law and would escape conviction. If the word "corruptly" were put in it would make no difference, and he should advise his hon. friend to withdraw his Amendment because no such argument in regard to the word "knowingly" would hold water in a law Court. He himself had an Amendment down which was intended to deal with the real offence, viz., that of a man trying to vote twice, and it was important to define what this offence was. A man came forward and the officer at the polling booth under this Bill had a right to ask him "Are you registered in any other constituency?" If so he did not get a vote. He must answer the question put to him before he voted, and the very answer which he gave under the provisions of an Act of Parliament might prove the case against him if he were proceeded against criminally. Such a provision was excessively unfair, because not only did they obtain an admission from the man that he had two votes, but that he knew that he had two votes when he came into the booth. They could not be too careful in inserting words of this character which defined the offence which they wished to punish, so that a man should only be punished if he voted or wished to vote twice when he knew that the law only allowed him to vote once. A man ought not to be made a felon unless it was shown that he had an intention to defeat the Act.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton) said he was a layman and therefore, according to the noble Lord, he was not entitled to take any part in the discussion.

Lord R. CECIL remarked that he did not say that laymen were incompetent to take part in the discussion. He should not like to say that the hon. Member for Northampton was incompetent to take part in any discussion. What he said was that laymen when they discussed points of law were more technical than lawyers.

Mr. PAUL, continuing, said that if he were to take the right hon. Gentleman's umbrella there was not a judge on the Bench—not even Mr. Justice Grantham—who would not hold that he had taken it designedly and corruptly. [" Order."]

Viscount TURNOUR wished to know whether it was in order to mention in debate the name of one of His Majesty's Judges in the way of attack.

The CHAIRMAN : It is not in order to make an attack upon one of His Majesty's Judges.

Mr. PAUL, who was received with cries of "withdraw," said he was not attacking any Judge. He thought that if he were to take the right hon. Gentleman's umbrella knowingly, there was no Judge who would not hold he had taken it designedly and corruptly.

The CHAIRMAN : The hon. Gentleman has named a particular Judge, and I think he ought to withdraw.

Mr. PAUL : If you say that, Sir, I express my regret for having introduced the name.

Sir E. CARSON said that if the hon. Gentleman took his umbrella, which he hoped he would not, merely to shelter himself home on a rainy night, and intended to return it next day, no jury would convict; but if he took it to annex it permanently, there would be a question for the jury, and that was the question the Committee were now discussing.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 330. (Division List No. 334.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlexF
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt.HnJ.A.(Worc
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.

Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent. Mid.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Rawlinson and Lord Robert Cecil.

## NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B (Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grints'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A,
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardiner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lambert, George
Lamont. Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis

Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Har'ch
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J. M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A, E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards,T.F. (Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E.(Manchester
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir. A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at one minute before Eleven o'clock.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Friday*, 26*th October*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

## *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

Clydebank and District Water and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill, "to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Clydebank and District Water and Burgh Extension," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th November, and to be printed. [Bill 344.]

## *PETITIONS.*

### BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petition from Stepney, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

### LABOUR TEST WORKERS (ENFRANCHISEMENT).

Petition from Westmoreland, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Londonderry, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 TO 1903.

Copy presented, of Order dated 30th July, 1906, entitled the Liverpool (Birkenhead) Foreign Animals Wharf Order of 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 505 (St. Lucia, Annual Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3724 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Irish Veterinary Department.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the duties of and annual pay received by each member of the veterinary staff at Upper Merrion Street, Dublin; what is the salary of each portal inspector in Ireland; how many animals were detained for contagious disease at each port during the months of July, August, and September, 1906; could he give the number of veterinary portal inspectors in England, Scotland, and Ireland (exclusive of those at Merrion Street, Dublin); how many veterinary portal inspectors are there for the port of London, and how many for the port of Dublin; and how many veterinary portal inspectors are there for the ports of Liverpool and Manchester, and how many for the port of Belfast.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The veterinary staff of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland at headquarters consists of the chief inspector and the superintending travelling inspector. Other inspectors employed from time to time at Upper Merrion Street in connection with the veterinary branch are:—(1) Portal inspectors who are nominally attached to the Port of Dublin, but are mainly engaged in connection with the suppression of swine fever, and in making inquiries into outbreaks of other diseases of animals. They also attend at the Port of Dublin when required and relieve the veterinary inspectors at other ports when those inspectors are absent on leave or through illness; (2) Veterinary inspectors temporarily employed under the Department on the work of eradicating swine fever. These inspectors are also employed from time to time in making inquiries into other diseases, or in acting temporarily at the ports when necessary. At present there are five of these inspectors, who attend at the offices of the Department and are engaged on duty in Dublin and adjoining districts. The number varies according to requirements. The duties of the chief inspector are to act as veterinary adviser to the Department in respect of matters arising under the Diseases of Animals Acts, to take charge of the measures adopted with a view to the suppression of swine fever, and to direct the action of the veterinary inspectors in connection with their inquiries into diseases of animals generally. The duties of the superintendent travelling inspector, under the Diseases of Animals Acts, relate to the various matters concerning the transit of live stock by land and sea, and the supervision of the arrangements at the several ports for the veterinary inspection and shipment of animals brought to the ports for exportation from Ireland. His duties also embrace inquiries and inspections with regard to transit of produce, and he acts for the chief inspector in the absence of the latter. The salaries are as follows:—Chief inspector, £700 per annum; superintending travelling inspectors, £500 per annum; portal veterinary inspectors, scale £200—10—£300, rising to a maximum of £350 after thirty years service. Four inspectors receive in addition allowances for acting as supervisors at the larger ports, viz.:—Dublin, £85; Belfast, £50; Cork, £25; Waterford, £15. Local veterinary practitioners act as portal inspectors at the following ports:—

| Port. | Remuneration. |
|---|---|
| Wexford and Rosslare - | £160 per annum |
| Sligo - - - - | £150 „ |
| Ballina and Westport - | £100 „ |
| Coleraine and Portrush | £100 „ |
| Limerick - - - | £1 1s. for each day employed. |
| Dundrum - - - | £1 1s. for each day employed. |

Temporary (non-established) inspectors are remunerated as follows:—Under three years service, 10s. a day, including Sundays; three years service and under five years, 12s. a day, including Sundays; five years service and under twelve years, 14s. 6d. a day, including Sundays; twelve years service and upwards, 16s. 6d. a day, including Sundays. The number of animals detained on account of contagious disease at the Irish ports during the months of July, August, and September last was two, viz., two sheep stopped at Belfast on account of sheep scab. The number of portal veterinary inspectors in Ireland on the regular staff is twenty-two. There are in addition the six local practitioners above referred to. The number of inspectors attached to the port of Dublin is usually six, but this number may vary slightly at different seasons of the year. The number attached to the port of Belfast is three. I have no information as to the number of inspectors in England and Scotland. Any inquiry as to these should be addressed to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. The duties of the British and Irish inspectors are not quite the same. The latter inspectors examine all cattle, sheep, and swine which are exported from Ireland, as well as the cattle, sheep, and swine imported into the country. They also see that the regulations prohibiting the shipment of animals unfit to undergo the journey and the regulations for the prevention of cruelty are observed, and that the railway cattle stations and the inspection yards and lairages at the ports are kept in proper condition and are duly cleansed and disinfected.

### Administration of Chinese Customs.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that dissatisfaction still exists amongst British merchants and others interested in commerce in the Far East at the present position of Sir Robert Hart in relation to the administration of the Chinese customs; and whether efforts are still being made to insure that the authority and control of the Inspector-General shall be fully maintained.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I am aware of the dissatisfaction and anxiety which has been caused by the new decree. So long, however, as it remains a simple transfer of control already and always existing it does not affect the administration of the customs by Sir R. Hart, and unless there is interference which prevents the customs from being administered on the lines hitherto followed no steps by His Majesty's Government would be justifiable or are required.

### British Indians in Natal and the Franchise.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Corporations Consolidation Bill passed by the Natal Parliament deprives British Indians resident in the Colony of the municipal franchise; and whether the Colonial Office will represent to the Government of Natal the hardship thus entailed upon civilised and loyal citizens and British subjects.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I would refer the hon. Member to the reply made by me yesterday to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire.†

### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill—Proposed Committees of Advice.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the proposed committees of advice on the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill have been formed; and when the regulations to be made by the Board are likely to be issued.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The proposed committees were appointed by my noble friend on the 4th of August last. Several meetings have been held, and it is hoped that the Regulations will be laid upon the Table of the House not later than the 10th of November.

### Closing of Irish Coastguard Stations.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many Irish coastguard stations are to be closed in connection with the alterations which are to take effect from 1st November, and if he will specify the stations to be abandoned.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It has been decided to close the undermentioned coastguard stations in Ireland on 1st September next:—

| Station. | Division. |
|---|---|
| Ballymacaw - - | Waterford. |
| Knockadoon - - - | Youghal. |
| Roberts Cove - - | Kinsale. |
| Mill Cove - - - | Skibbereen. |
| Derkmore - - - | Pullendiva. |
| Ballyshannon - - | Sligo. |
| Moville - - - - | Moville. |
| Larne (and Detachment at Magheramorne) - | Carrickfergus. |
| Groomsport - - - | Donaghadee. |
| Dunany (and Detachment at Annagassan) - - | Dundalk. |
| Skerries - - - | Malahide. |
| Spiddal - - - - | Galway. |

### The Women Suffrage Disturbances.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was on Wednesday last sent to prison for fourteen days at the Westminster Police Court, for alleged disorderly conduct; whether the only evidence against her was the uncorroborated testimony of one policeman, whilst three women of standing, who were called to give evidence for the defence, contradicted that of the policeman in every essential particular, and whether, under these circumstances, he will give instructions for her immediate release.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone*) I presume the Question relates to the conviction of Miss Estelle Pankhurst. I have communicated with the learned magistrate who tried the case, and he reports that in his opinion the evidence of the ladies who were called as witnesses by the defendant confirmed the evidence of the constable in essential points. I can find no reason to doubt that the conviction is right, or to think that the fine of twenty shillings imposed was excessive. The defendant's release can be secured at any moment by payment of the fine.

---

† See Col. 409.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the proceedings at the Westminster police court on Wednesday last, when ten women suffragists charged with disorderly conduct for having asked for votes for women, were sent to prison for two months for failing to find sureties for £10 each, to keep the peace for six months; and whether he proposes exercising his authority to secure their immediate release.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) These ladies were not convicted, but were ordered by the magistrate to enter into their own recognisances and to find one surety to keep the peace, and on refusal to obey were committed to prison. It is still open to them at any moment to secure their own release by obeying the magistrate's order. In these circumstances, I cannot interfere with the sentences.

### The Bank of Ireland.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is in contemplation to acquire the premises of the Bank of Ireland in Dublin for Government purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) No question relating to the premises of the Bank of Ireland is under consideration of His Majesty's Government.

### Irish Contractors and Army Tenders —Dublin Depot.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can state what progress has been made in providing the inspection depot in Dublin for the reception of samples of tenders for Army and Navy supplies from Irish manufacturers.

(*Answered by Mr. Buchanan.*) The building referred to has now been completed and, in future, in tenders for certain classes of goods for Army service, delivery in Dublin will be allowed as an alternative to delivery at Woolwich. I have no knowledge of any action being taken as regards Navy supplies.

### Leave in Athenry Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General why the postmaster at Athenry refuses to give his subordinates either casual or special leave, although the regulations permit this; and whether he will take steps to see that the staff at the Athenry office get such privileges as the regulations afford them without undue local restrictions.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a Report on this subject, and will give the hon. Member an Answer as soon as possible.

---

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Selby Abbey.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that Selby Abbey has been completely gutted by fire; and that when York Minster was burnt down in 1829 the Government of the day gave a grant of £5,000 worth of oak from the Government dockyards towards its restoration; and whether His Majesty's Government can on this occasion make any grant or give any assistance in the similar work of restoration at Selby.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, East): I have made inquiries at the Record Office, but have not be able to ascertain precisely what occurred in 1829, the precedent to which the hon. Member refers. The present case does not appear *prima facie* to be one to which the Government could properly make a grant of public money, but I have no official information, nor have I received any application on the subject.

## ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, "That this House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

---

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) moved to insert after the word "knowingly" in the first sub-section, the words, "and with the intention of voting in more than one constituency," his object being to try and induce the Government to state more definitely in the Bill the particular nature of the crime for which a man would be prosecuted if he contravened the terms of the Act of Parliament. Anybody acquainted with the difficulties of the law would admit that they ought as far as was possible to define in exact terms what was the exact crime that they meant to punish. The whole object of the Bill was to prevent plural voting, and he suggested that if it was made a crime to exercise the right to vote more than once, that was as far as it was necessary to go to carry out the intention of the Government. They ought to go no further, and unless there was an actually guilty mind in the person proceeded against, they ought not to hold him responsible and a criminal. If the word "knowingly" had covered the whole case he would not have moved his Amendment, but it did not. Supposing a man, having two qualifications, knew he had not signed and served a notice, but was not acquainted with the fact it was necessary to serve a notice. Was it intended to inflict upon the man the punishments set up by this Bill for exercising or even attempting to exercise the franchise, even though he had no intention of exercising a double franchise? As regarded the question of fact as to whether he had two qualifications or whether he had to serve his notice, the word "knowingly" would cover the matter; but as regarded the other question, that the man was unacquainted with the fact that the notice was necessary, that would not be covered by the word "knowingly." Therefore it would be necessary to set up some words to define the offence, unless it was desired to punish a man and make him a felon because he had exercised his vote in that way. By his Amendment he proposed that they should define the offence by inserting "with the intention of voting in more than one constituency." He admitted that if they set up this law they must enforce it. It must be carried out, and they must have the means in their hands of enforcing it. But he submitted they would have covered the real offence which had been committed if they made it essential to prove that a man did commit the act complained of with the intention of voting in more than one constituency. That would always relieve any man who honestly made a mistake. Although he could not see any reason why these words should not be inserted, he was not wedded to them. Any words suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was quite as capable as any other lawyer in the House to set up such a form of words as would effect this purpose, would have his support. He had a very great objection in legislation to the words "knowingly," "wilfully," and "corruptly." It was far better that they should lay down in terms what it was they meant, than that they should adhere to these words because they were words which had been used in previous Acts. They gave very great trouble to the judges, who had to define what they really meant. He hoped the Government would consider this matter It was a matter which should be considered when they were setting up a new and indictable crime. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'knowingly,' to insert the words 'and with the intention of voting in more than one constituency.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) said the Amendment moved by the right hon. and learned Member in so moderate a speech went much further than the very moderate statements he had just made in regard to it, because the words which he proposed to insert did in fact destroy the principle of selection which had already been approved by the House. The words proposed by the right hon. Member were, "with the intention of voting in more than one constituency." The words prescribed by the Bill were that he should vote in his selected constituency. Under the right hon. and learned Gentleman's words he might vote in a constituency which was not his selected constituency, and that, he was sure, was not the intention of the right hon. and learned Member.

Sir E. CARSON said that was his intention, because his point was that the only thing which should be criminal was that the man had tried to vote in two constituencies, and that he ought not to be prosecuted because he did not vote in the selected constituency.

Mr. HARCOURT thought it was not necessary to proceed further with this argument, because he always intended at another stage to give some further protection to the *bonâ fide* voters. But as the right hon. and learned Member had asked him to suggest some words, he would suggest, "and with the intention of evading the provisions of this Act." He believed that would meet the case, and give all the protection necessary to a man who was acting *bonâ fide*. He hoped that that would be satisfactory to the right hon. and learned Member.

Viscount CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said he desired to associate himself with the right hon. Gentleman's Motion. He certainly hoped that the Government would see their way to listen to proposals which came from the Opposition. It was obvious from what had taken place in the previous day's debate that the opinion of the Committee was in favour of the abolition of plural voting; therefore, he did not propose to say a word upon that point. He did feel, however, that it was incumbent upon them now that they were unable to promote the principles they advocated with regard to the Bill to do what they could to carry it out in the manner in which it was proposed. He would urge upon hon. Members opposite to do their utmost to simplify the Bill. Its provisions would most certainly have to be interpreted by the vast majority of laymen, and he thought that the terms of the measure as they stood at present would require a legal mind to arrive at an understanding of them. To his mind the Amendment moved on the previous day to insert the word "corruptly" was more suitable to meet the difficulty, but the majority of the Committee was against it. He thought, however, the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not give them on that occasion a clear explanation, and although he (the noble Lord) was quite ready to treat with the utmost respect any remarks made by the right hon. Gentleman, yet with regard to the number of voters the Bill would affect, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proved to them his entire ignorance of the subject. He (Lord Castlereagh) felt it was not for them to attach very much importance to the right hon. Gentleman's words upon the Bill before them. The manner in which the Bill was interpreted at the present time would certainly give rise to ambiguity in the future. Instead of effecting the abolition of plural voting it would simply give employment to members of the legal profession. In matters of law he naturally bowed with all respect to the hon. Members of the legal profession sitting opposite him, but he himself had had a certain amount of experience on the subject under discussion, perhaps more than most Members of the House. There was a great deal of ambiguity in regard to the election law at the present time, but, if this Bill were passed, the ambiguity would enormously increase. The Amendment, however, certainly met the case before them. He thought overseers should only place on their list the names of electors, with their residential qualification. It would simplify matters, because if persons with more than one qualification sent in their claim in the usual way, it could be treated as their selection. He hoped the Government would see their way to amplify the word "knowingly." The word could only lead to ambiguity, which he felt sure it was the desire of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to avoid.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman opposite did not meet the case of his right hon. and learned friend, because it still made voting in two constituencies a criminal offence, but it did go a great way towards meeting the wishes of the Opposition. If the right hon. Gentleman would not accept the Amendment of his right hon. and learned friend perhaps the words proposed to be moved by the right hon. Gentleman were the best that could be set up.

SIR E. CARSON said that although the Amendment which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to move did not go the whole of the way which he himself would have gone, he thought it would be a great improvement in the Bill. While he would have preferred it to be clearly laid down that there was no crime unless there was an intention to vote twice, he was prepared to withdraw his Amendment and accept the words of the right hon. Gentleman.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"After the word 'knowingly' to insert the words 'with the intention of evading the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted"

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he did not quite follow the defence of the proposal that was made by the right hon. Gentleman. The intention of the Act was to prevent a man voting in more than one constituency. If that was the real intention it would have been better if the Government had cleared themselves of the suspicion which must now attach to them of placing greater disabilities on those who had more than one qualification, than on those who had only one qualification. He also thought that if this Amendment was carried there would be great difficulty on the part of a poor man defending himself from a charge brought against him. He reminded the Committee that earlier in the year an hon. Member, under a misapprehension, voted twice—once in the "No" lobby, because he thought it was a closure division, and afterwards in the "Aye" lobby, when he discovered that it was an Education Bill division—and asked the clerk to strike his name off the "No" list. His subsequent explanation showed that he certainly acted in this way knowingly, but it would have been very hard to prove that he did not act knowingly and with the intention of evading the provisions made. If that could occur in that House, surely in an ordinary polling booth there must be numbers of people who might make an analogous mistake, and try to vote, for example, in the place most convenient. To subject the ordinary voter to penalties which they would not dream of imposing on a Member of this House was very hard.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was discussing another part of the clause. The question now before the Committee was whether these modifying words should be added to the clause.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said the right hon. Gentleman had asked them to withdraw their opposition on the ground that he was going to make some alteration in the Bill in line 15, which dealt with the penalty, and it was almost impossible to discuss the Amendment without referring to that part of the clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) moved to omit the word "personation," for the purpose of inserting "an offence." The point involved was that this was not an offence of personation. This was a new offence created by the new and complicated procedure of this Bill, and, therefore, it was a good opportunity for the Committee to decide whether they should apply the word "personation" to an offence which was distinctly not personation, and to decide what that offence was to be called.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the word 'personation' and insert the words 'an offence.'"—(*Mr. Lane-Fox.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'personation' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT thought the hon. Member was probably not present on the previous evening when he had explained this point. He had taken the exact analogy of previous Acts in dealing with the matter. It was already an offence of impersonation for a voter to vote in two different divisions of a divided borough; the law had specially stated that, and he was really only assimilating this Bill to the existing law as it stood.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) said the tenderness of the right hon. Gentleman for precedent when it suited his purpose was only equalled by his utter disregard of it when it did not suit him. He himself moved an Amendment yesterday in which he took words from the very statute on which the right hon. Gentleman now relied, but he declined to be governed by the precedent. In the case of a voter having more than one qualification in a municipal borough, the case upon which the right hon. Gentleman relied, it was the duty of the Returning Officer to give that man the right to vote on one of those qualifications without the man taking any steps in the matter. In this case the Government deliberately refused to do that and imposed on the voter who was qualified many times over an obligation which would not have been imposed on him had he merely had a single qualification. Personation to any man not conversant with the statute indicated a very clear and definite offence—namely, for a man to pretend for the purposes of fraud to be somebody he was not. In this case the man was not pretending to be any one he was not, or committing a fraud. He was merely trying to assert a right which every man on the register ought to be in a position to assert, and it was monstrous to dub him with the guilt of personation—one of the most serious offences against our electoral system, punishable by one of the severest sentences known to the law. In this matter they now had an opportunity of setting a better precedent than the law already set. There could not be any objection to the acceptance of this Amendment. The Committee must remember that the word "personating" was used in a much more narrow sense in the present Acts than in this Bill. The Bill, though it was neither a franchise nor a disfranchise Bill, did disfranchise a great number of people who usually voted against hon. Gentlemen opposite, and was openly supported by them on that ground. It was a Bill on the face of it to amend the criminal law. It created a new offence and punished that offence with one of the most savage penalties the law had power to inflict. That was not a very creditable work for the new Parliament to be engaged in. Whatever might be said for the principle of the Bill, there could be no justification for describing this offence as personation.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said he would not be tempted to pursue the right hon. Gentleman into invective. The question before them was whether the word "personation" should stand part of the clause. As far as the term "personation" was concerned, there was an exact precedent in the Ballot Act, where an offence almost indistinguishable from this was described as "personation." The right hon. Gentleman said it was a monstrous thing to bring into such a category the conduct of a man violating this section. But what would such a man have done? In the first place, he must be a man who had deliberately selected a particular constituency in which to vote. [Cries of "No."] No man would be guilty of an offence under this section unless he voted in a constituency other than that which he had selected. [Cries of "Yes."]

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Supposing he has made no selection?

MR. ASQUITH: The voter must know that it was his duty to select between his qualifications; and he could not be convicted unless it was proved that he knew the facts, and that he acted with the deliberate intention of violating the provisions of the Act. Was such a person entitled to sympathy? Had he not committed a grave offence against the law, the necessary ingredients of which offence were knowledge and a wilful intention to violate the law? If so, why should they not follow precedent, and say that he was guilty of personation?

SIR E. CARSON said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the crime of personation under this Bill was met in the same way as under the Ballot Act. The circumstances of the crime of personation under the Ballot Act were entirely different, for that Act was concerned with the man who attempted to vote a second time. The offender must apply for a ballot paper in the name of some other person, or in his own name after having already voted once. That was nothing like the case contemplated in this clause, where the person who applied for the ballot paper had not voted at all, but happened to be on the register in two places.

MR. ASQUITH: With the intention of evading the provisions of the Act.

SIR E. CARSON: But not with the intention of voting twice. To represent such a voter as guilty of personation was a misnomer. But there were other considerations. Were all the powers given to the presiding officer for dealing with fraudulent and corrupt personation to be given in this case? Was the presiding officer to have the power to order a man, who had two qualifications, but who had only tried to exercise one, to be immediately taken into custody? How could the proviso about "knowingly and with the intention of evading the provisions of the Act" be applied? How could the presiding officer decide the intention of the man when he asked for a ballot paper? The Government would carry out their object much better if they mitigated this penalty. Did they suppose that they would get juries to convict when the penalty for asking for a ballot paper was imprisonment with hard labour for two years, and seven years deprivation of civil rights? Juries would revolt against such savage sentences. [AN IRISH MEMBER: Not if you pack the juries.] This was a question not of packing juries, but of packing the register. It was not necessary in this case to inflict a penalty attaching to an entirely different matter. Why could they not say, "This is an offence, and let us consider what is a proper punishment for it?" Did anybody really think it was essential or necessary to punish a man for this offence with two years' hard labour and deprive him of civil rights? What was the difficulty of simply saying that this was an offence and of providing a commensurate penalty? An offence of this character ought not to be classed with one of which the essence was criminality and dishonesty. He thought the Committee would be well advised if instead of enacting this savage sentence in regard to a comparatively harmless crime they took care to set up a punishment commensurate with the offence.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that there was one aspect of this case which the Government had not yet considered. He could not help feeling that the circumstances under which this Bill was introduced had completely changed. They all knew that the Bill was introduced with the view of depriving a certain class of voters of more than one vote.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said that as the noble Lord had referred several times to this matter he wished to state that he had made a speech which might be misconstrued into the interpretation which the noble Lord gave. But he had at the time told the noble Lord what it was he really meant to say. Whether he said it or not [Laughter and cries of "What was it?"] he could not say exactly, as he had not yet been able to obtain the official report of his speech. He had been in the House many years, and he had always found that when an hon. Member corrected a misconception as to what he had said his explanation was at once accepted. But the noble Lord, instead of accepting his explanation, had gone to the Gallery for a shorthand report of the words used, and then, taking a sentence from the context, quoted it against the explanation that had been offered. He had never meant to say that the Bill was intended to be of any particular advantage to the Liberal Party, and the action of the noble Lord was not in accordance with the usual courtesies of the House.

LORD R. CECIL assured the hon. Gentleman that he meant no discourtesy towards him; and, of course, he accepted his correction. Perhaps he might say, however, that the correction which the hon. Member made on the previous occasion did not appear to him substantially to alter the meaning put upon his first statement. Now that the hon. Gentleman said that he meant to alter it altogether, he accepted the statement, and would not refer to it again, except to express his profound regret that the hon. Member should have disavowed what appeared to him to be the only clear explanation of the intention of the Government. In his judgment the object of the Government in introducing this Bill was to safeguard the position of the Liberal Party at elections by depriving their opponents of a certain number of votes, and it was clear, that being their object, their Bill would affect mainly the richer and the more educated classes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, indeed, had argued that it was perfectly fair to impose these extreme penalties, because the men concerned were those who must know what they were doing. The situation had been altogether changed by the speech yesterday of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, who had shown to demonstration that this Bill would not only affect that class of voters, but would affect a very large number of the poorer class of voters, who were not able to follow the niceties of the election law. A good many would not send notices under this Bill at all, and in the result they would be disfranchised altogether. It was an absurdity to suppose that they would send notices, because anyone who had even a moderate acquaintance with registration work knew it was most difficult to induce a large number of voters to take the proper steps to see that they were properly registered. It was an undoubted fact that this Bill would disfranchise a very large number of the artisan and labouring class voters. Let the Committee consider how the matter would actually work. They knew that these elections were conducted with the greatest vigour and energy by the agents on both sides, and the moment they knew there was a large body of voters on one side or the other who were likely to vote in an irregular manner, they would take care on the eve of the poll to notify all those persons that they were not entitled to vote, and that if they did so they would be guilty of personation. However just it might be to stigmatise with the crime of personation a man who was able to keep himself abreast of all legislation, it was the height of absurdity to stigmatise men like agricultural labourers with that crime because they had failed to send in a notice at the proper time, in accordance with the complicated provisions of this Bill.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said the closing sentences of the speech of the right hon. and learned Member for the University of Dublin seemed to destroy the arguments he had used in its earlier passages. If he followed the right hon. Gentleman's contention rightly, he acknowledged that they had to deal with an offence, and to allot to that offence an approximate penalty. In his earlier remarks the right hon. and learned Gentleman attempted to show that there was some difference between the offence of personation, which involved giving a wrong vote, and the offence of seeking to claim a vote to which the elector knew he was not entitled. He acknowledged there was some distinction between the two cases, but the question was whether the offence could not with justice and advantage be placed in the same category and dealt with on the same footing. He was sure his right hon. and learned friend would recognise that there could be few more serious offences than deliberate and intentional breach of the law. No offence under this section could be committed except by a person who was intelligent enough to know the law, and to know its application in his own case; and, in the second place, it could only apply where there was a deliberate intention to break the law. There were few more serious offences, and few it was more to the interest of society to suppress, than intentional defiance of the law by a person who knew he was defying it. The offence under consideration was a serious one, and if so, there ought at all events to be a maximum penalty which would enable a court in a proper case to ensure respect for the provisions of an Act of Parliament. The law ought to have a weapon which was powerful enough in flagrant cases to ensure respect. That was an argument in favour of a maximum penalty. No doubt, in most cases those who had to award punishment would pass light punishment; but supposing there was a concerted attempt to upset this Act of Parliament. Supposing there was a batch of electors who treated the provisions of this Act with scorn, or, in the spirit of passive resistance sought to set the Act at defiance, was there to be no power behind the law to make its provisions respected? Such a state of things was not altogether beyond the realm of imagination, and therefore the maximum penalty should not be out of the power of the tribunal. His right hon. and learned friend was surely wandering into the realms of technicality when he objected to this offence being grouped with analogous offences. Of course this was not a case of personation, but it was a conscious breach of duty in the exercise of the vote.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said there were evidently two questions before the Committee, one being a question of language and the other a question of substance. As to the question of language, the hon. and learned Gentleman who had just sat down had said that this offence was not personation, but nevertheless he had asked why they should not group it with personation if they admitted that the penalties for personation were proper in this case. Then why did not the hon. and learned Gentleman make the Bill fit in with that view? The Bill did not say that the offence created by it should be in the group of offences described as personation. He thought that would make the Act of Parliament even more foolish than it would otherwise be. What was here proposed was not following the analogy of the Ballot Act which had been constantly referred to. The Ballot Act said that "a person shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence of personation who at an election" did this, that, and the other. He did not know that the language there was very felicitous, but there the statute said a person "shall be deemed to be guilty," and he thought these words should be introduced in line 12 of this Bill. It was really making our whole system of drafting absurd if they wrested words away from their plain, obvious, and undoubted interpretation. The resources of the English language were not wholly inadequate to making the definition clear, and yet carrying out the intentions of the framers of the Bill. On the question of drafting, he ventured to suggest that if the Government insisted on carrying out the extreme penalties which they desired should be visited on the head of an offender against the Act they should introduce the words "deemed to be" after the word "shall" in line 12. That was a drafting Amendment which was worthy of the attention of the Government. On the question of substance the argument of the Attorney-General was that if a person knowingly broke the law the penalty could not be too severe for him. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear hear."] So ran the argument of the Attorney-General, and apparently it was approved by hon. Gentlemen sitting behind him. Was that in accordance with the practice of Parliament in framing the criminal law? Was it in accordance with common sense or common justice? It was an offence against the law, he believed, to drive a perambulator on the footpath. If a nursery maid was warned by the police that she was breaking the law by driving a perambulator on the footpath and a mile further on repeated the offence was there any penalty too severe for breaking the law?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: I did not say that no penalty was too severe. I said that there ought to be sufficiently severe punishment to ensure respect for the law.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that that dictum showed that in the imposing of penalties regard should be had to the quality of the breaches of the law. There were two offences possible under this Bill. A man having two qualifications might vote in two places, and a man having two qualifications but not having selected one might attempt to vote in one and one only. Was it not ludicrous to say that these two offences were the same in quality, or to mention them in the same breath, or to visit them with the same penalty? Was not that a preposterous proposition? The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act distinguished the gravity of the offences. There were many gradations of offences under that Act, and all that was now asked was that there should be a gradation of the offences under this Bill. The learned Attorney-General's reply to that argument was that the court had ample power to recognise variations in the offences, and that where the offence was only a slight one the penalty would be slight. The Attorney-General was mistaken. If they said that the mere asking for a ballot paper without giving or intending to give two votes was to be treated as if it were personation, the court might no doubt inflict a low penalty in the shape of imprisonment, but the court had no choice but to deprive the offender for seven years of all his civil rights. His right hon. friend the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, had pointed out that the maximum penalty for high treason was the deprivation of the right of citizenship for five years. Here the judge would be obliged, whatever the offence, to deprive a man of all his civil rights for seven years. The offender would be in a worse position than a South African traitor. Was that the manner in which the House thought they ought to treat the law of this country? Was that the way they thought they would gain respect for the electoral laws they chose to establish? Was it not manifest that, not merely humanity, but the sound principles of criminal legislation, and the possibility of getting the laws enforced, required that there should be some natural propriety and relation between the character of the offences, and the character of the penalties? If they wanted juries to do their duty, they must make the penalties which the juries knew would follow on that duty such as would not come in conflict with their conscience. There were cases of trifling offences where juries could not be got to convict, because they knew that when such convictions were obtained they were followed of necessity by sentences so severe that everybody's conscience was shocked. If they wished to carry out in this Bill the sound principles which had prevailed for many years, he ventured to suggest that they should draw a distinction between the two offences he had mentioned. He hoped the Government would do something to meet both these points—one of drafting and one of substance—by introducing words which would make a difference in the penalties.

[When the right hon. Gentleman resumed his seat a coloured gentleman in the strangers' gallery rose and said—

"Gentlemen, before any reply is made I tell you I have come from Almighty God."

The officials in attendance seized the visitor, who exclaimed, "Wait, I am a British subject." He was at once removed from the gallery.]

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said that the case of the voters who had qualifications in two borough constituencies was quite different from that with which they were dealing. In the case of the borough voter who went to the wrong division to vote he was told that he was not on the list, and he merely walked to a polling place in another division. The case of the borough elector was in no way relevant to this case.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said that the statement that the Bill would affect the working classes rather than the rich had been received with some amusement, but having had a considerable number of years experience of registration work, he could assure the Committee that that was the case. A man might be on an old register and, removing into another district, might be put on a new register without his being cognisant of the fact until an election came on. Only at that time of activity when an election agent came along and asked him for his vote he might become aware that he was on a second register. Even then, in some cases, he might not know and might present himself at the polling booth while on another register. It might be said that such a man would be free from the penalties of the Act because he "does not know," but he might be subject to all the annoyance and inconvenience of a Ballot Act prosecution. He did not defend a man who was actually guilty of violating the provisions of the Act, but he wanted to prevent the possibility of an ordinary elector being subject, at the hands of the presiding officer or the personating agent, to the annoyance of being given in charge. In Belfast there was a case where two men were given in charge for personating and they were both proved to be innocent. What he wanted to avoid was the giving in charge of an innocent man.

MR. HARCOURT said that, of course, there was a great deal in what had been said by the hon. Member, and the points he had raised would be duly considered by the Government. The hon. Member must remember that when a man asked for a ballot paper knowingly, he had no right to demand such a paper, and the presiding officer was bound by the man's answer. He would introduce an Amendment to make the voter's answer to the presiding officer into an affirmative instead of a doubtful negative. The Leader of the Opposition had made a strong appeal as to the punishments which would be inflicted under the Bill by reference to the Ballot Act. He thought that it would be quite fair that he should, at a subsequent stage, insert some words which would give power to the judge to give relief from the disabilities imposed by the Ballot Act. On the general question of the severity of punishments, surely the right hon. Gentleman would agree that they did not wish to encourage breaches of the law, and to have frequent prosecutions and the consequent infliction of small penalties. That was not what Parliament wished. Their object was to deter people from committing an offence. He thought that if a high penalty were imposed on a voter who was highly educated and was cognisant of what the law was, that man would realise the facts of the case, and it would save him from prosecution. That was, he held, the best way of dealing with this matter.

MR STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said that this was not really a case of the interpretation of the language in a previous Act of Parliament. Undoubtedly if the present *régime* continued they would eventually find themselves in a forest of prohibitions. It was here a question of attaching the stigma of shabby fraud to something which was as far removed from that as it could possibly be. The distinction between the offences was profound and could not be evaded. Under the terms of this Bill it was very doubtful whether the prohibitions imposed were not for the convenience of one party in the State.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that this clause affected ownership more than residence. Any person who had an ownership vote knew that he had it. What he was concerned about was the case of a man who had two occupying votes, one in a town and another in the country adjoining. In many cases that man might be on the register for one of these constituencies unknown to himself, as happened frequently in Darwen and Clitheroe. What he was anxious about was that a man should not lose his vote in the Clitheroe division because he had not had his name struck out of the Darwen register. It was, surely, not his business to have his name struck off from one register more than another.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member seemed to be treating of a man who might lose his vote under certain circumstances. But this Amendment did not deal with the point raised by the hon. Member.

MR. SHACKLETON hoped the Government would consider this question of the vote more than the penalty.

MR. ASQUITH said that the Government hoped to bring up an Amendment at a later stage dealing with this point.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he understood the Attorney-General to say that it was quite possible for the Court to award a light punishment in the event of conviction under this clause. But, as he understood, if a man was charged with an offence under the Ballot Act there was no option of imposing a light punishment. Section 6 of the Act of 1883 provided necessarily for the infliction of imprisonment for two years. At any rate that presented itself as the case to an ordinary layman's mind. If that were true, there was no option. There must be the punishment of imprisonment, and that imprisonment carried with it disfranchisement. And, however willing the Court might be to inflict a light punishment, they could not do so. That was too severe a sentence to be imposed on a man who had committed an offence unwittingly.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said that a man might easily commit accidentally an offence while trying to do his duty. He maintained that a moderate penalty was much more likely to be effective than a severe penalty. A severe penalty would prevent many people from going to the poll. He thought it was a terrible thing to inflict such a penalty upon a man as was provided for by the Bill. For a rich man £50 was an ample deterrent and for a poor man 5s.; and if the maximum penalty was £50 it would be quite sufficient. If there was inability or unwillingness to pay a fine then imprisonment might be resorted to. This system of deterrent sentences had been tried centuries ago and had failed, while experience had proved that light sentences which commended themselves to public opinion were upon the whole more effective.

MR. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes) said they were not discussing so much the nature of the punishment as the use of the word "personation," and there appeared to him to be no adequate reason why right hon. Gentlemen should use that word. Quite apart from the legal arguments which had been addressed to them it appeared to him that it was a question of common sense. The word "personation" was the wrong word to use in this connection. Why should they use it because it had been used in former Acts in order to save time? He did not see why the Government could not accept the Amendment unless it was because the legislature had made a similar mistake before.

Sir JOHN WALTON said that as he had been appealed to he would give an answer. He thought the punishment of imprisonment must be inflicted; but of course it might only in trivial cases be for one day and sometimes hardly for that, as a defendant would be liberated at once.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said his objection to the word "personation" was that they were using a word to describe an offence which meant something different. This Act of Parliament would have to be construed not so much by lawyers but by ordinary people, and it was extremely advisable, as far as possible in all cases, to use the common words of the English language in their ordinary sense, so as to convey some idea of the meaning which it was sought to express to the man who had to act upon it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in addressing himself to this particular Amendment, was evidently under the impression that in order to constitute the offence of personation the meaning of his own Bill was that an individual should have voted or had claimed to vote twice. It was pointed out to him, and he thought that before the close of the right hon. Gentleman's remarks he admitted it, that the offence might take place under circumstances where the voter who attended to vote had not voted before at all, but was going to vote for the first time in the election. He could conceive a very large class of cases where the particular man going to vote had always voted before in that same place. He had not been accustomed to vote in any other constituency, and in all previous elections he had been accustomed to vote at that particular place. It was admitted on both sides that a man might claim a vote who had not voted in any other constituency and who did not know that he was on any other register. A man might also be entitled to claim another vote, although he did not know it, because he had been a successful man of business, and had acquired some further premises, so that because he was successful, under this Bill he earned the penalty of being disfranchised and lost his vote altogether. He himself had had an experience in this direction during the last three or four days. For many years he had had a residential qualification in Liverpool, but some months ago he took some rooms in London. It might be said that he ought to know the law and he thought he did, but he was not acquainted with the peculiar practice which prevailed in London. In the north they did not have the practice of taking rooms and paying a rent in which taxes and rates were included. In London, however, it turned out the practice was different. He took his rooms and no claim was made for rates or taxes, but he got put upon the register of voters although he was entirely ignorant of the fact. He did not know that he had been placed upon the register last September, and the first he heard of it was two days ago when he was canvassed by the Radical agent for the City of Westminster who wanted to get his vote. If this Bill had been in operation he would have been disfranchised. But that was not all, because if there was an election in Liverpool, although he had been put upon the register in London behind his back, because he asked for a voting paper at Liverpool he should be charged with personation. Was it right that a person who did an act like that *bona fide* in a place where he had been accustomed to vote for many years should be charged with an offence? It might be the case of a labouring man or of a rich man, he made no distinction. The effect of such a provision would be, in the first place, although he had been guilty of nothing as far as he was aware, that he would be tried for a serious offence. Supposing the case came before a jury and there was some political feeling in the matter and he was found technically guilty on the ground that he ought to have known the law. The consequences would be very serious. But even before that, for merely asking for a ballot paper, he might be given into custody by the presiding officer and taken away to the police cells as a felon. The learned Attorney General said that that did not matter because, if the offence was of a trivial character, he might get only one day's imprisonment or less and be set at liberty after the hearing. That was all very well, but what about the conviction which carried with it a deprivation of civil rights for a number of years and because of which he would be disfranchised?

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was indulging in great repetition, and he must ask him not to repeat over and over again his own or other people's arguments.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he had no intention of unduly prolonging the discussion and would at once obey the ruling of the Chair by curtailing his remarks, but he wished to point out that there was another serious penalty which he should incur. If there was an election in Liverpool, he would certainly be on the Election Committee of the Unionist candidate, and if he were found guilty of personation and even got off with this half a day—still, if the candidate whom he supported were elected, the fact that he had been convicted would invalidate the election, because if personation was brought home to a candidate or his agent the election became void. It seemed to him that the penalties involved under this Bill were enormous and absurd and disproportionate. He would, therefore, appeal to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to accept the Amendment. If he did so he could proceed to indicate the proper punishment for a particular offence, and the penalties would not be all lumped together for an offence which was not personation although called by that name.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR wished to put one small point to the Attorney-General or the Minister in charge of the Bill. This offence was to be described as that of personation, and he found that under the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, Section 6, sub-section (2), it was provided that the person who committed the offence of personation or who aided, abetted, counselled, or procured it should be subject to the imprisonment and the other penalties provided for. This case might happen. A large number of working men, who were quite ignorant of the fact that they had two qualifications, might vote in the place in which they resided. That would not be an offence under the Amendment which the Government were going to introduce into the Bill, because it would be done unknowingly. Supposing the agent who looked after the working-class voters was aware that these people had a double qualification and yet urged them to vote, would he be guilty of personation or not? Would he be a person who had aided, abetted, counselled, or procured personation? Morally he would be guilty, but not legally if the Government's Amendment were adopted, because he would not procure the commission of the offence of personation if it was done unwittingly by the voter. So the agent, knowing the facts, who told the voter, who did not know the facts, to go and vote was not aiding and abetting, for the simple reason that no offence of personation was committed or could be committed by a voter who did not know he had a double qualification. There was a hole to be stopped up. The Government should introduce an Amendment to provide that a person who advised an ignorant voter to vote where he had not made a selection, although he had not aided or abetted the commission of an offence, was nevertheless guilty of an offence under Section 6 of the Corrupt Practices Act.

*SIR JOHN WALTON complimented the right hon. Gentleman on the legal ingenuity with which he had evolved this point and the perspicacity with which he had expounded it. His view was quite accurate. But the effect would be that it would be necessary to create a new offence. It would be necessary to create a new category of offenders to include persons who counselled ignorant electors to evade the law. That was a matter which would receive the consideration of the Government, but he hardly thought the right hon. Gentleman wished this Bill to be made more drastic than it was.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the question was rather a serious one after what the Attorney-General had said. He objected to the severity of the penalty altogether; he was assuming that the House would insist upon adopting the penalty as it was. They had heard that an immense number of working men had a double qualification. The party agents would have great interest in getting these people to vote, although they knew well enough they ought not to vote. If the Government really wanted to prevent a man with a double qualification from voting unless he had made a selection, it really was folly not to punish the man who, knowing the voter had a double qualification, still urged him to vote. To leave unpunished the agent who knew perfectly well the law was being broken and urged that it should be broken was absurd.

Mr. ASQUITH: We will consider the matter. I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 284; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 335.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,HnW.C.B.(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carylon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo.
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.HnSirJT.(Cheshire
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt, Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr,Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.

*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*

Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield. Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James.
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Cent.)
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, WalterRussell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles N. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sutherland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen), E.
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley(Southamp'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. HnA.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn Walter(Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Remnant. James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'personation' stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 288; Noes, 71. (Division List No. 336.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B.(Hexh'm
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo.
Bilson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHnSirJ.T. (Cheshe
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E.Grinstd
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr-Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip

O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh, Central
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG. Scott-Bradfrd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel Herbert L. (Clevland)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthn
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull W.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.MichaelHugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander-Acland Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*THE CHAIRMAN called on Sir E. Carson to move the next Amendment, others of which notice had been given not being in order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR on a point of order asked whether, with regard to the point which his hon. friend (Mr. Lane-Fox) had intended to raise as to the penalties, it would be practicable to propose an Amendment for definitely raising the question whether a fine should be imposed as an alternative to imprisonment in the case of personation being proved. It was an important point. If it were urged that the interpretation of the word "personation" covered it then it was suggested that the Government had themselves engaged to alter the penalty and not allow the Court to diminish the civil privileges of the person condemned.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he could only deal with the Amendments before him and none of these were in order which would allow the question mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman to be raised.

MR. LANE-FOX said he understood that he would be allowed to divide his Amendment and to propose the penalty of £100, with the alternative of imprisonment.

THE CHAIRMAN protested against the practice of springing Amendments upon the Committee in this manner and not allowing him an opportunity for considering if they were in order.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) drew attention to the fact that there was an Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Kingston the point raised in which had not been dealt with in any way except by the Amendment raised by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. That Amendment was in favour of the plural voter and gave a right to a man who did not know he had a vote in two different places to vote in the district in which he resided. Although the wording was similiar to that of the right hon. Baronet, it raised, he submitted, a totally different point.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was the same point.

SIR E. CARSON said before he moved the Amendment standing in his name he would like to move to leave out all the words after "personation." He proposed to omit those words because, as he understood, the Government themselves proposed to limit the penalty for personation.

MR. ASQUITH said what the Government proposed to do was more in the spirit of the Amendment on the Paper—to give the Court power to remit.

SIR E. CARSON said that might not be very different but he desired to omit the words in order that they might be able to modify the penalties taken from the Act of 1883. If the Amendment was carried he would then propose necessary words embodying the modifications.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out from the word 'personation' to the end of sub-section (1)."—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. ASQUITH pointed out that in every other case, unless the Court otherwise ordered, the disabilities as to *status* and so forth followed on conviction. These disabilities as to *status* followed automatically. If the Corrupt Practices Act were applied *in propria forma* there was no power in the Court to mitigate the penalties. He thought the Court ought to have full power and full discretion to omit all the penalties if it thought fit when an offence of this kind took place.

SIR E. CARSON declined to agree with the view that if they omitted these words, they left no punishment for the crime. The very fact that they were crimes left the penalties there except so far as they were mitigated. He proposed if this Amendment were carried to put in some words mitigating the penalties under the statute of 1883. The right hon. Gentleman would see at once what he meant. Supposing instead of "personation" the word was "manslaughter"—"that he should be guilty of manslaughter" the right hon. Gentleman surely would not say that there was no penalty for that.

MR. ASQUITH said that if the right hon. and learned Gentleman read these words carefully he would see that he was not quite accurate. The Corrupt Practices Act should be read as part of the Third Schedule. If they were to apply to a conviction under this Act the disabilities as to *status* and so on, they must include this section under the schedule. If they omitted those words they would not do it.

SIR E. CARSON said it was not worth while to argue the point, though he did not agree with the right hon. Gentleman. It did not appear to him to be as stated because "personation" had already been defined by Act of Parliament. He admitted that these words read into this section the Act of 1883. That was the very thing he complained of; he contended that they should set up in relation to the offences they were now creating appropriate punishments. All he said was that a much more convenient way to do that was not to refer at all to the penalties of the Act of 1883. That was a species of legislation of which he did not approve, and they ought, he thought, to have the penalties on the face of the Bill itself.

*MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) thought it was a question of construction. The point was what was "personation" in this clause. They had to consider what a person must do in order not to come within this provision. He must, when selecting a constituency—

> "send a notice . . . signed by him to the clerk of the county council or town clerk . . . before the 1st of September preceding the commencement of the year in which the selection is to begin to take effect, and the clerk shall mark the name of the person sending the notice where it appears on the register in the manner prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act, and shall keep the name of that person so marked in the register for every subsequent year so long as the name of that person continues without interruption to be included in the register and the notice of selection is not withdrawn."

If a voter had not sent in a selection and voted, was he acting in contravention? Or if he sent it in after the 1st of September, was he guilty of a contravention of the Act? If he was guilty in doing any of these things then it would seem that the greatest precautions should be taken in this matter, because the acts might be committed not by the man held to be guilty but by some person over whom he had no control.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought it was germane to the question of the penalties to consider what they were for. Let them suppose that a voter, not knowing he had another qualification, appeared at a polling booth and demanded a right to vote, that the personating agent met him with the statement that he had a qualification for another constituency also, and that he was not allowed to vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that seemed to be a question of the construction of the earlier part of the clause. It was not in order on this Amendment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN asked whether such an act could draw down these penalties on a man's head.

MR. RAWLINSON asked if the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer could see his way to add after the word "personation" the words "and shall be liable to," and then might follow whatever penalties they thought right. The penalties should be set out in the statute itself. This legislation by reference was not by any means convenient.

MR. ASQUITH said this was the old story which he had very often told himself when sitting on the opposite Bench, but it would not do. If they were to set out seriatim and verbatim all these penalties in this Bill there would be Amendments to everyone of them. He could not in the interests of the Government and of the country disturb this old Parliamentary practice.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 284; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 337.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,RtHn.SirJ.T(Cheshire
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.

Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex, E.Grinstd
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W,
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Dudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset E
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.

Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. Glamorgan
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull,W.
Wilson, P. W. (St; Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland. SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry Staff'sh
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN moved an Amendment to provide that the loss of civil rights should not follow on conviction of the offence of asking for a voting paper if the person asking for it had not already voted. He understood that the concession promised by the Government was limited to giving a discretion to the Court not to enforce the law if in the opinion of the Court it was not proper to enforce it. He now asked the Government to go further, and to say that the loss of civil rights should not follow where the offence was limited to asking for a voting paper without any intention of voting twice. The main object of the Bill was to prevent a man voting twice. He would assume that a man received a notice on the eve of the poll that his name had not been removed from the register in his last place of abode, although he had been properly put on the new register. Under this Bill he would be forbidden to exercise his right to vote, and if he did vote he would be committing an offence. It was, however, a very pardonable offence, and he might be regarded as a good citizen; at least to the extent that he took such an interest in public affairs that, being a qualified voter, he desired to exercise the franchise. At all events, the offence of such a man was so trivial that it ought not be possible for the Judge to deprive him of all civil rights in addition to sentencing him to imprisonment. The penalty was altogether disproportionate to the offence, and he trusted the Government would follow up the more salutary tone adopted to-day, and accept, if not the words of his Amendment, at least words to attain its object.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at the end, to insert the words, 'but so that Section 6, Sub-sections 3 and 4 shall not apply to a person convicted of the offence of asking for a voting paper if he has not already voted.'" — (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he had not had notice of the Amendment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he handed in the Amendment at the Table two hours before.

MR. HARCOURT said in any case he was not going to complain, because the right hon. Gentleman had explained his Amendment so lucidly. His own impression was that it was a matter which should be left to the discretion of the Court, and, as he proposed to give the Court a dispensing power, he was quite sure the Court would not inflict an injustice. However, he would consider before Report stage whether anything could be done to meet the point of the right hon. Gentleman. But he must ask the right hon. Gentleman not to take that as a definite pledge, because he believed the discretion which he proposed to give the Court would meet the case.

SIR E. CARSON thought the right hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension. Under the present Act of Parliament the Court could not, even if it wished, give a person any relief from the penalties which followed a conviction. But the sole question that arose from this Amendment could be put in a nutshell, namely, whether the offence of applying for a ballot paper without having voted once was sufficiently punished by two years imprisonment. If this Amendment were carried, that would be left. He did not look upon hanging as anything like imprisonment with hard labour for two years.

MR. HARCOURT said he thought that the right hon. Gentleman had forgotten the promise that he would bring up words to give a discretion to the court, and he only asked the right hon. Gentleman to give him a little time to consider the method in which it should be done.

SIR E. CARSON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman when he spoke of the court meant in regard to a specific application, or where there was a trial.

MR. HARCOURT: Where there is a trial.

*MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.) said he was disposed to agree with the Amendment. There was much in the contention of the right hon. and learned Gentleman when one considered a recent decision given from the bench. He therefore thought the matter should not be left to the discretion of the Judges.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD pointed out that so far as the Act was concerned there was no discretion given to the Judges.

MR. HARCOURT said he knew there was no discretion, and he promised to give the Judges a discretion.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that giving the Judges a discretion would not meet the case. He doubted whether it would be possible to give such a discretion to the Judges, as under the Corrupt Practices Act disfranchisement followed automatically upon conviction. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman if he would put in more concrete language what he really intended to do in regard to this matter.

SIR JOHN WALTON did not think there would be any difficulty in inserting words which would have the effect of giving to the Court under this Bill a discretion which it did not possess under the earlier statute. The right hon. Gentleman had undertaken that words with this object should be inserted.

MR. LUPTON asked whether it was a fact, as had been argued in the course of the debate, that the conviction of an agent or member of an election committee for impersonation would void the election. If that were so there would be a search instituted on behalf of the defeated candidate to see whether any of the committee who voted possessed double qualifications. The Bill accordingly was a Bill strongly in favour of millionaires who could bear the expense of inquiries and petitions, but to those who were not millionaires it was a ruinous procedure. If that were so he would far sooner be without this Bill altogether.

Lord R. CECIL hoped that some better answer would be given by the Government to the point which had been raised. He thought it would be better to postpone further proceedings on this Bill until Monday, so that they might see exactly what the effect of the words of the Amendment were. The Government should have an opportunity of considering how they were going to deal with the difficulties which had been raised by one of their own supporters. He certainly thought they ought to have something more precise from the Government as to what it was they were proposing.

Mr. HARCOURT said he did not think that this was the proper time to deal with the point, but there would be a further opportunity upon the new clause down on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Blackpool. He was not prepared now to produce the form of words which would be acceptable to the Government, and he trusted the Opposition would be satisfied with his promise.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD thought it was quite enough if a man was guilty of this new statutory offence that some Court should have the power to give him two years imprisonment with or without hard labour. Sub-section (2) inflicted a penalty for personation, and sub-section (3) gave no discretion to the Judge, but laid down a lot of statutory penalties such as the deprivation of civil rights for seven years; that had nothing to do with the discretion of the Judge, but followed as a matter of absolute statutory penalties. He did not think that further statutory disability should follow for this offence. The right hon. Gentleman had tried to meet this objection by saying he was willing to give the Judge a discretion as to whether he would impose these further penalties or not. He thought the Judge should have no discretion in regard to the penalties, and two years imprisonment with or without hard labour was quite sufficient discretion for any judge in such a matter as this. It was for that reason that he was not content to accept the assurance of the right hon. Gentleman that he would bring up words on Report which would give the Judge discretion in a matter in which he had no discretion at all under the original Act.

Mr. ASHLEY said he did not think it would be possible to raise the point which had been put forward by the hon. Member for Sleaford upon his new clause.

Mr. HARCOURT said he had considered the point and he thought that matter could be discussed.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought the discussion was wandering from the very narrow point which he had placed before the Committee. If the right hon. Gentleman would meet him by accepting the principle that a man in such a case was not to be subjected to these civil disabilities he would not press him to produce the words now, and he would be willing to withdraw his Amendment. If the right hon. Gentleman only promised to take a discretion to consider whether he would or would not do this, then he could not withdraw his Amendment.

Mr. HARCOURT said he understood the right hon. Gentleman's provision, but at the present moment he could not give such an undertaking, and he must keep a discretion to himself as to what action he would take.

Question put.

The Committee divided—Ayes, 77; Noes, 284. (Division List No. 338)

AYES.

Anstruther-Grey, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balour, Rt. Hn. A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry,N.)
Beach, Hn Michael HughHicks

Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.Victor C.W
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn J.A.(Worc
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland, Sir FredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark,Govn
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George R.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashfrd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlingt'n
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, Jn. Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn J G (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE AYES — Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring,Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B (Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs, Leigh
Brunner, RtHn Sir J. T(Cheshr
Bryce, Rt. HnJames(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley-Frederick
Cherry, Rt Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H.(Sussex,E.Grinst
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H.(S.Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G.(Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Hart-Davis, T.
Harwood, George
Halam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen,W
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wyombe)c
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman(SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)

Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B.)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, S. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. (N. (Doncastr
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert Jn. (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradfd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset,
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SIR E. CARSON, in moving the insertion of the proviso of which he had given notice, said that there were certain classes of cases under the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act in which the Court, if satisfied that no serious crime was intended, had power to give a certificate relieving the voter of the penal consequences of the act which he had committed. The section to which he referred was Section 23, which to his mind contained a perfectly reasonable proposal. The Court would have power to refuse a certificate of indemnity, but where they concluded that it was not a genuine attempt to commit the offence of plural voting they would have power to grant this indemnity. They ought to give the voter the power to take the initiative himself, and having stated the facts then the Court should have discretionary power either to relieve him or not. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at end, to insert the words, 'Provided that when on application made it is shown to the High Court that any person has acted in contravention of this section, without any intention of voting in more than one constituency, the court shall have the same power to grant relief as is contained in Section 23 of the said Act.' "

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he was ready to meet the right hon. and learned Gentleman more than half way, and he would accept the Amendment if he would omit the words "voting in more than one constituency," and would substitute "evading the provisions of this Act."

SIR E. CARSON said he understood the point perfectly well. As he had said already, his Amendments had been framed with the view of making a protest against a man being deprived of his civil rights at all unless he had attempted to vote in two places. Although his protest had been overruled he must say that the concession which the right hon. Gentleman had made went some way as a mitigation of the penalties. He certainly hailed with satisfaction and accepted even the form proposed by the right hon. Gentleman. He might be allowed to withdraw the Amendment now before the Committee, and then move it in the form suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, or he could amend the Amendment he had already moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Amendment may be amended.

SIR E. CARSON moved to amend the Amendment by leaving out the words "voting in more than one constituency," and inserting the words "evading the provisions of this Act."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'voting in more than one constituency,' and insert the words 'evading the provisions of this Act.' "—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he objected to the original Amendment, and also to the way in which it was proposed to amend it. If they accepted the Amendment suggested on the Government side the effect would be this. If an offence was committed by a wealthy man he would be able to be represented in the High Court by counsel, who would make out a strong case by stating that the offender had forgotten the pocket-book in which he had noted the selected constituency, or something of that sort, and if the Judge was sympathetic the offender would get relief. But how about the case of a poor working man who unwittingly committed the offence and was struck off the register in the division in which he lived, but who could not incur the cost of employing counsel to appear for him in the High Court? A poor man who had not an election agent, or the wealth of a political party behind him, would be deprived for seven years of all his civil rights.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed words inserted.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

LORD R. CECIL said he should like to understand exactly what the effect of the power to grant relief would be. He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dublin University whether he had considered the effect of reading into this Bill Section 23 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act of 1883. He had not the section before him, but if his recollection was right it involved an offence of an unimportant character committed by a person acting inadvertently. He rather doubted whether the words of that section would be applicable effectively to an offence committed under this Bill. If his right hon. friend had considered that point he would be more than satisfied, but if he had not considered it the Amendment ought to be amended by leaving out the word "same" and stopping at the word "relief," so that there would be no reference to Section 23 of the 1883 Act.

SIR E. CARSON said he had considered that point. His view was that Section 23, which dealt with a trivial offence, would not apply.

Lord R. CECIL said he had now before him Section 23 of the 1883 Act. Sub-section (a) pointed out the kind of offences for which relief might be granted, and sub-section (b) pointed out the conditions on which relief might be granted for those offences. It seemed to him that these sub-sections were inapplicable to the kind of offences contemplated by this Bill, because in the nature of the case they must be committed outside the conditions provided for in the sub-sections to which he had referred. Under the 1883 Act the Court must be satisfied that such act arose from "inadvertence, or from accidental miscalculation, or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature." It was very doubtful whether an offence described by this Bill as committed "knowingly" could ever be committed from inadvertence, or from accidental miscalculation, or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature. Under these circumstances he ventured to think that the Amendment would better carry out the intention of all parts of the House if amended in the way he had suggested.

*Sir JOHN WALTON said that the Act of 1883, to which reference had been made, specified certain offences and certain conditions on which the Court could grant relief. No doubt in regard to these offences one of the conditions was that they should be of a trivial nature. Under this Bill the condition on which relief could be given was in the terms specified, and the condition was that the Court should be satisfied that the person had acted without any intention of evading the provisions of the Bill. Then by granting relief, the Court could save the applicant from the unfortunate consequences of a prosecution. What he understood the right hon. Gentleman opposite was anxious to do was to make it impossible to subject an offender, who had not really been guilty of evading the Act, to the distressing consequences of a prosecution. That was, he agreed, rather a new step to take in our jurisprudence. He hoped the noble Lord would be satisfied.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that if this Amendment were passed, an Amendment of which he had given notice would be out of order.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member's Amendment is out of order in any case.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that gave him all the greater personal hostility to the present Amendment. The Amendment which he had intended to bring forward was to add words at the end of the clause to the effect that the punishment under this Bill should be that which was provided for under sub-section (1), of Section 6 of the Corrupt Practices Act, namely, two years' hard labour. The Amendment now before the Committee was absurd, because a man could not be convicted unless he "knowingly" evaded the provisions of the Act, and yet an offender would be able, if this Amendment were accepted, to apply to the Court for relief, on the ground that he had acted "without any intention of voting in more than one constituency." It appeared to him that the two propositions were directly destructive of each other. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had been answering the arguments addressed to him *ad nauseam*, and one would have thought that he would have seen it was time to modify his attitude and take a reasonable view. Two years imprisonment was a sufficient penalty.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is discussing an Amendment of his own which is not in order, and that is quite out of order.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. RAWLINSON moved to insert a proviso that "no offence under this section shall give ground for a scrutiny or proceedings under an election petition." He brought forward this Amendment for the purpose of dealing with a matter which had been indicated in the course of the debate. Under this Bill, when it became law, it would be perfectly possible for a man who was qualified in two constituencies to vote in one of them without knowing that he was qualified in the other. That would not constitute an offence, for the word "knowingly" covered the case. He wished to protect not merely the inadvertent voter who might vote in one division quite in ignorance that he was qualified to vote in another constituency, but also the innocent person for whom he voted from being penalised on account of such inadvertence. If an election was at all close it would naturally lead to a scrutiny, and if the scrutiny disclosed the fact, as it unquestionably would do in large constituencies, that a number of the voters who took part in the election had two or more qualifications, and that they had not made the selection required by the statute, it would lead to an election petition and the consequent expenses. The Bill increased the danger of election petitions, and practically invited the unscrupulous to commit fraud. At election times, when party feeling was running high, some people would run the risk of imprisonment if they thought they could unseat a political opponent. Unless they put in such a proviso as he proposed there would be opportunities of the kind indicated which would enable the opponents of the successful candidate to harass him either with scrutinies or election petitions. He asked the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill to meet him in regard to this Amendment, which, he contended, would not affect the principle of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 15, at the end, to insert the words 'No offence under this section shall give ground for a scrutiny or proceedings under an election petition.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT said that the reception of the concessions he had already made was not very encouraging. That, however, was not a reason why he should not grant further concessions. As a matter of fact he largely agreed with what the hon. and learned Member had stated. The hon. and learned Gentlemen proposed that no offence under this section should give ground for a scrutiny or proceedings under an election petition. What the hon. and learned Gentleman meant was that if a man had voted honestly without the knowledge that he had another qualification that should not be an excuse for a scrutiny or proceedings under an election petition. He admitted that he found himself largely in agreement with the object of the hon. and learned Member, and the point raised by this Amendment had been present to his own mind for some time. But the particular form of words proposed by the hon. Gentleman would not do, because by it no offence, however corrupt, would give ground for a petition. No one in the House wished, he was sure, that the case of a mere inadvertent voter, who voted honestly and without knowledge of having another qualification, should give an excuse for a scrutiny or an election petition. He intended to introduce a provision later on to cover this point, and to remove the fear of such inadvertent act leading to the expense of an election petition. While not pledging himself to the actual words, he would give an idea of how he thought this provision should run:—"If, on an election petition, the vote of any person is objected to on the ground that the vote has been given in contravention of the provisions of this Act, the vote should not be rejected upon that ground if the voter satisfies the Court that he did not know he was upon the register in any constituency other than the one in which he voted."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that the Amendment was not on the Paper, and therefore he had not had time to consider it. The basis of the Bill was that a man who had two qualifications should not vote for either until he had made his selection.

Now, the Government were going to say not merely that a man should be regarded as innocent if he said he did not know what he was doing, but also that his vote, illegally given, should be regarded as valid. The subjective ignorance of the voter was to have a subsequent objective effect on the validity of his vote. That brought up again the point he made on a previous Amendment in regard to political agents. After this Bill passed there would probably be agents whose business it would be to make themselves acquainted with the number of double qualifications upon the register. If the voters were on their side it would be their interest to urge them to vote, and not to tell them of their double qualification. If their efforts were successful, the men would vote, but they would not be punished because it could be argued that they did not know what they were doing, and that therefore their votes were valid. If the agent belonged to the other side, his object would be to conceal the fact of the double qualification till after the 1st September, and then disclose it to the voter, and point out to him that if he voted he would be subject to two years imprisonment. That seemed to him to be an intensely ludicrous position in which to leave the electoral law. The Government, by yielding to the force of the arguments offered from the Opposition side of the House, had exhibited the inherent folly of their own original proposals.

MR. RAWLINSON said that he wished to thank the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill for the way in which he had met him, although he did not think he had gone far enough. What he wanted to meet also was the case of a person who had run the risk wilfully of committing the offence under the Act, and who might be detected by the political agent on the other side. His second point was that by the words of his Amendment, an election should not be upset if the voter showed to the proper tribunal that he had voted quite innocently in the particular division for which he was not qualified. What he was anxious for was to protect the candidate who might be subjected to the payment, not only of his own costs in a Court of law, but the costs of the other side.

LORD R. CECIL said what he wished to point out to the right hon. Gentleman was that in the case of a man who was put on a second register without his knowledge, and voted, or if he had done any work for the candidate, the election of that candidate would be declared void. That was a material point which had not been dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill.

MR. HARCOURT said that he had not had time to consider the point raised, but he would do so.

MR. RAWLINSON said that in view of the double understanding come to with the hon. Member for Sleaford and himself, he desired to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he understood that the question now before the Committee was that subsection (2) should be approved of. The Committee would see that that subsection consisted mainly of machinery, and part of that machinery consisted in a reference to an Order in Council. He thought that this was the proper time at which to press the Government to say whether the Order in Council was prepared or whether the Government could give the Committee a broad outline of its character. He thought it would be admitted that the Committee could not discuss the machinery provided by this second sub-section, unless they knew what that machinery was to be. In order to raise the point he moved the omission of sub-section (2).

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out sub-section (2) of Clause 1."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'must,' in line 17, stand part of the clause.'"

MR. HARCOURT said he was sure that the right hon. Gentleman who had had so much experience in these matters must know that this was not a stage of the Bill at which the terms of the Order in Council could be produced, because the Order in Council necessarily depended on the final shape which a Bill might take, and a Bill, as the right hon. Gentleman was aware, might be altered at the last moment before it became an Act. A motion to produce the Order in Council before the Bill was passed had over and over again been resisted by the right hon. Gentleman himself. He (Mr. Harcourt) remembered that in the case of the Irish Local Government Act the Order in Council carrying out the whole of the machinery of that Act could not be produced until after the Bill was passed. The same thing might be said in regard to the Licensing Act of 1904. The right hon. Gentleman could not expect him to depart from those precedents.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) in moving to leave out sub-section (2) said the Government were introducing an entirely new system which was full of difficulty and complexity. The present system had worked extremely well and commended itself to hon. Members on both sides of the House, and he thought they ought to have some more sufficient reason given for its abolition than had been forthcoming. It seemed to him that it was hardly fair to throw upon the voter the responsibility of making this selection when there was already a well-known practice of leaving him on for his place of abode if he did not make the selection. That practice had worked well, and under it the person affected did not lose his vote.

THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member appeared to be arguing against something which had already been agreed to in the first sub-section of the clause. If he was doing so he was out of order.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER was not aware that any form had been fixed as to the way in which the selection was to be made, and he was only putting before the Committee an alternative process which had already acted well. If he was out of order he was quite ready to abide by the ruling of the Chair. The Committee, however, had a perfect right to consider one other matter. The difficulty which arose was to find out the selection which the particular voter made, but it was not insuperable, and this information could be easily given by some system of indices or references from various parts of the country to other parts. This system of reference was fairly well known and was used in regard to many other parts of the administration of the country. Under the present Bill it placed upon the voter the task of doing that which the town clerk, the overseers, or the agents of the respective parties in the various constituences ought to do for him, and his contention was that a voter who was exercising a right and a duty ought not to be impeded in any way in obtaining his vote. The process of obtaining his vote ought to be made as easy as possible for him, and this work of selection should not fall upon him or the agents, but upon those whose duty it was to make up the list of voters.

THE CHAIRMAN said that that was precisely what he was trying to explain to the hon. Member. Sub-section (1) said that a voter should only vote in a constituency which he had selected. Therefore, the Committee had already decided that he must select.

*MR. HARMOOD-BANNER replied that he was not arguing against that. He was arguing that the way of the voter ought to be made easy by the overseers and town clerks whose duty it was to make up the list, and that there ought to be some system of forms or indices by which easy reference could be made not only by those who had made up the list, but by the voter himself, so that he might know what his position was. The number of plural voters was stated the other day to be 500,000. Whether that was right or not he did not know, but if it was somewhat about that number he did not think it ought to be difficult to deal with them.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that as far as he understood the hon. Member, what he desired could be done by the Amendment of sub-section (2), and if that sub-section was left out, he would not arrive at what he desired.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said he was endeavouring to contend that the sub-section was wrong, inasmuch as it did not give the facilities which the voter had a right to expect.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was clearly seeking to amend the machinery in the sub section, and if the sub-section were left out altogether it would not do what he desired.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said he was trying to suggest machinery so that the Government might bring up some better provisions.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was out of order and must not go on.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said he understood that the way in which the Chairman had put the question made it incumbent upon him to speak to a series of Amendments which he handed in a short time ago, because they affected the first two lines of the sub-section. His Amendments would provide that the clerk of the county council, or the town clerk, who was responsible for the printing of the Parliamentary register should, before the 1st day of August preceding the year in which the register was to take effect, mark the name of every person who was on the register of Parliamentary electors for another constituency in the manner prescribed by the Order in Council made under the Act, and should keep the name so marked in every subsequent year. His object was not in any way to do away with the selection, but to simplify the whole machinery of registration by checking the vote of plural voters. Unless some machinery of this kind was set up, and if—as was certain to be the case—a large number of plural voters failed for some reason or another to make their selection, the registers would be in a state of extraordinary confusion, and would make the work of the revising barrister, the personation agents, and the presiding officers, a matter of very great difficulty attended with great inconvenience. His desire was, quite irrespective of selection, to have the register marked by the county authorities so that it should not be dependent upon a notice being received for the voter. If they left out marks against the names of all those who for some reason or another failed to send notice of selection, it would be perfectly impossible for any one of the officials to do their work efficiently and in a reasonable time.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) rose to a point of order. He understood that the question before the Committee was the omission of sub-section (2), and he wished to know whether it was competent for an hon. Member to discuss alternative machinery to that suggested in the sub-section.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think he could allow the hon. Member to go on with this discussion, because he had handed in a series of Amendments to the sub-section, which by the forms of the House he could not move. He could not discuss this Amendment on the Motion that the sub-section be left out.

*MR. COURTHOPE said that in view of the form in which the Question was put, a division would make it impossible for him to move his Amendments.

THE CHAIRMAN said that in that case the hon. Member must vote against the Amendment. It constantly occurred that an hon. Member was prevented from moving an Amendment by the Motion of an hon. Member who came before him.

*MR. COURTHOPE pointed out that his hon. friend below the gangway was refused permission to continue his speech because he had failed to place Amendments on the Paper, but that he himself had done so.

THE CHAIRMAN said that that was because he was speaking to the Amendment of the sub-section and not to its omission.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD submitted that if an hon. Gentleman could vote against the sub-section he was entitled to speak against it.

THE CHAIRMAN said that obviously an hon. Member could speak against it so long and only so long as he was in order.

MR. COURTHOPE attempted to continue his remarks, but

THE CHAIRMAN said he was clearly out of order and could not proceed.

SIR E. CARSON wished to ask a question in regard to the Order in Council which the First Commissioner of Works had said it was impossible that they could have until they knew what the effect of the Bill as a whole would be. Was he right in thinking that the Order in Council was not to set up any machinery at all, but merely referred to the method in which the clerk was to mark the selection on the register. That was how he read the words—

> ' And the clerk shall mark the name of the person sending the notice where it appears on the register in the manner prescribed by the Order in Council made under this Act."

If that was so, and they were not to have any additional machinery which he conceived to be necessary, the Bill would have no force at all. It was necessary, therefore, in his view to put down additional Amendments so that they might set up machinery to carry out the Bill.

MR. HARCOURT said the right hon. and learned Gentleman was in error.

The Order in Council would deal with other matters besides the machinery.

**Sir E. CARSON** thought the hon. Gentleman would admit that as the Bill at present stood it did not seem to be intended that the Order in Council should include other matters.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 256; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 339.)

## AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn WCB. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Billson, Alfred
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J T. (Cheshire
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland.
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnston, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, Philip

O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(AshtonunderLyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H.(SomersetE
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, SirJohn L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. J. A. Pease and M. Herbert Lewis.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHnAJ.(CityLond.)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A.(Worc.
Corbett, T. L. (Down. North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, CaptainJames(Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Hardy,Laurence(KentAshford)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.HonCol.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt.HnWalter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S.(Shieffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sasson, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Foster.

And, it being after Five of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 4th August last.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Monday, 29th October*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against—Of inhabitants of Great Washbourne; and Olderton; of inhabitants of the parishes of Middleton Stoney; Houden; Perrott; Richmond (Yorks); Little Hereford; Stanton-Fitzwarren; Pawlett; Syston St. Thomas's (Lancaster); Kelton; Saxby-cum-Stapleford; Newbold-Verdon; Hugglescote; Fringford; Everdon; Barrowden; Daventry; Hinckley; Maxey; Muston; and Potterspury; of parents and guardians of children attending church schools at Blymhill; Stanton-Fitzwarren; Newbold-Verdon; Chapel Heaton; of trustees and managers of Church of England schools in the diocese of Chester; members of the Vale of Avon (Batheaston district) of the Primrose League; and teachers in the rural deaneries of Framland; and Rutland.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition for amendment of; of the Ruridiaconal Conference of the rural deanery of Sandwich; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 505. St. Lucia (Report for 1905).

### TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3725. China.

### JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1869.

Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland, for the year 1905.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Closing order made by the council of the county borough of Londonderry; the urban district council of Wexford.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 TO 1903.

Order, dated 30th July, 1906, entitled the Liverpool (Birkenhead) Foreign Animals Wharf Order of 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

### NORTH SEA FISHERIES.

Order of the 25th of June last, for Papers relating to the proceedings of the International Council for the Investigation of the North Sea, discharged.

## THE COST OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I rise to ask the Lord President of the Council whether, in the event of the £1,000,000 promised out of the Imperial Exchequer being insufficient to defray all the expenses incurred under the Education Bill, the deficiency will fall upon local rates. This is a supplementary Question which was put the other day by my noble friend Lord Wenlock in consequence of an Answer given by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, and of which the noble Earl then asked that notice should be given. Lord Wenlock is not able to be present at the commencement of to-day's sitting, and has asked me to put the Question on his behalf. I think it is necessary that I should read to your Lordships the answer which was given the other day by the Lord President of the Council out of which this Question arose. In reply to an interrogation by Lord Avebury with regard to the expenditure to be incurred under the Education Bill, Lord Crewe said—

> "The extra charge thrown on the taxes under the Bill was the sum of £1,000,000 provided by Clause 12, and the expenses of the Commission under Clauses 9 and 10 of the Bill. As regarded the expenditure thrown upon the rates, that might come under three heads; in the first place, in respect of structural repairs of the voluntary schools which were to be taken over; in the second place, in respect of the sums paid by way of rent, or otherwise on taking over schools; and, in the third place, in the shape of new annual charges for interest and sinking fund in cases where new council

schools had to be built in the place of existing voluntary schools."

If that was intended to be a full statement of the expenditure, I cannot help thinking that the Lord President is under a very strong misapprehension as to the charges which are to be imposed by this Bill. I will merely mention two of them. In the first place, it stands to reason that a considerable increase in administrative expenditure will take place when the voluntary schools become provided schools. In the second place, let me call your Lordships' attention to the fact that the two-penny limit for secondary education is done away with by this Bill. Therefore there will be a very large increase of expenditure under this Bill. What the amount may be I do not know. All that I wish to ask now is whether the deficiency, whatever it may be, is to fall on the local rates.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I am very sorry that the reply which I gave to my noble friend the other day was not considered satisfactory, and I fear I cannot add very largely to it on this occasion. The sum named in the Bill is the total grant over and above existing grants payable out of the Exchequer in aid of elementary education, and any further expenditure incurred by local authorities will fall upon the rates. The noble Earl and the House will, I am sure, see that it is absolutely necessary to make a provision of this kind. If we definitely offered to recoup any local authority for any expenditure it might choose to make under the Bill, no incentive to economy on the part of those authorities could possibly exist. We should have to make ourselves responsible for any expenditure, however extravagant. In the distribution of the additional grant regard will be had to the additional burden imposed by the Bill; but it must be clearly undertood that the Government do not state that in every area it will cover every possible extra expense which the local authority may incur. I might also add that the sum mentioned in the Bill has only reference to the Bill as it stands. If a considerable number of Amendments which I see upon the Paper were to become part of the Bill, I have no doubt the expenditure of many of the local authorities would be very largely increased.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I am bound to say that the reply of the noble Earl is not a satisfactory Answer to the practical Question put. If there had been any calculation of the number of schools, the number of children affected, and the amount per head, it would have been possible perhaps to realise how far the £1,000,000 would go, but apparently there was no such calculation, and all the noble Earl seems to hope is that the £1,000,000 will go sufficiently far to recoup the managers of those schools which are proposed to be demolished. The absence of *data* is unfair, and I hope the noble Earl's answer will come home to the ratepayers.

---

## EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Order of the Day read for the House to be again put into Committee on this Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF moved to postpone the clause. Their Lordships would be aware that by Clause 1 all the denominational schools of the country were put out of the category of public elementary schools, and were therefore deprived of all share either of rates or of taxes for maintenance. By Clause 1, as it stood, there was to be in future only one type of school in the country—namely, the provided school under the absolute control of the local education authority, and with either no religious instruction at all or religious instruction governed by the Cowper-Temple clause. When their Lordships remembered that out of the 20,000 elementary schools in the country 14,000 were denominational schools, and that more than half of the children of the country were educated in these schools, it would be admitted that this complete destruction of the 14,000 denominational schools was a mattter of the greatest moment and one that deserved their most careful consideration.

If the case stood upon Clause 1 alone, which had no exception, no safeguard, and did not point to any dispensation whatever, he would certainly not move the postponement but the rejection of the clause. But when they came to look at the Bill more in detail they found that, in spite of the absolute terms of Clause 1, there were to be exceptions. Under Clauses 3 and 4 certain classes of denominational schools were to be reprieved. Sentence of death was passed upon them all by Clause 1, and then reprieve was given to certain denominational schools. On the face of their Bill, therefore, His Majesty's Government admitted in principle the necessity of continuing the dual system which had prevailed for thirty-six years in this country. They admitted that there must be at least some denominational schools retained side by side with the council schools. But they did something more than that. When the Bill was before their Lordships on Second Reading the noble Marquess who led the House said, speaking in the name of the Government, that the Bill would be unjust and indefensible without Clause 4. Those were memorable words, which he trusted would not be forgotten. He would like to see them incorporated in the text of the Bill, and he thought they would form a fitting preamble to Clause 4. They might read in this form—

> "It would be unjust and indefensible to prevent parents who desired denominational education for their children from obtaining that education in schools built and maintained by themselves for that express purpose, and therefore be it enacted——"

A preamble of that sort would tend to clear their minds as to the adequacy and efficiency of the provisions of Clause 4.

They had, therefore, both the admission in the text of the Bill that there must be some dual system continued in this country, and the admission of the noble Marquess that without some concession of that sort the Bill would be unjust and indefensible. And when they came to look at what Clauses 3 and 4 enacted it seemed to him that the Motion he proposed for the postponement of Clause 1 became of even more importance. To the Catholics of this country Clause 3 was really a useless clause. He did not believe half a dozen, even if so many, Catholic schools would apply for facilities under Clause 3. He did not propose to say a word in censure or in criticism of Cowper-Temple teaching; all he would say was that it was a kind of teaching which was essentially Protestant in its character, and it was, therefore, repugnant to Roman Catholic principles, and Roman Catholics could not submit their children to it.

When they referred to Clause 4 the case seemed worse. It was edged round by conditions which rendered it almost impracticable in practice. It was perfectly optional to the local education authority whether they granted facilities under Clause 4 or not. They might, out of caprice, or prejudice, or whatever motive they pleased, refuse to grant them, and then there was an end of the matter. The facilities under Clause 4 were confined to urban areas of a particular size, and all rural areas were excluded. Then there was a further condition that a minority of one-fifth plus one was to deprive a majority of four-fifths minus one of privileges which they had hitherto enjoyed. That was, again, one of those enactments which seemed to him totally inadequate and not to come up to the standard which the noble Marquess the Leader of the House had laid down in his speech. The appointment of teachers under Clause 4 was left entirely to the local education authority and not to the parents of the children or to anybody interested in the proper and efficient giving of denominational instruction in the schools. He trusted that many of these things would be altered in Committee; but, until they knew the ultimate form Clauses 3 and 4 would assume, they could not judge satisfactorily whether to accept, reject, or amend Clause 1.

Clause 1 was a sentence of death on denominational schools. They wanted to know, and they ought to know, how many would be reprieved before consenting to pass this sentence of death. As the Bill stood at present, the exceptions that were admitted to Clause 1 were, in his judgment, totally inefficient. If they were made more efficient, the objections to Clause 1 would not be so strong, and the clause might possibly be accepted. Then there were clauses by which an appeal could be made to a Commission. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said in another place that the object of this Commission was to compel obstinate trustees to transfer their schools to the local education authority. They ought to know what the conditions of that compulsion were going to be before they assented to Clause 1. The clause professed to leave the Commission in the first instance, guided by the principles of the Court of Chancery, and then there were enacted a number of clauses which varied and altered the principles of the Court of Chancery, all of them against the interests of the denominational schools and their owners, and in favour of the local education authority. Their Lordships ought to know what the final form of this compulsion was going to be before they assented to Clause 1 as it stood. He begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"To postpone Clause 1 until after Clause 12."—(*Viscount Llandaff.*)

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON said that instead of moving the similar Amendment of which he had given notice, he should support that moved by the noble Viscount. He took this course in the interests of peace. No one could more desire to see some end to this religious strife than the Bishop of a large diocese, so that the whole weight of the religious forces in the diocese might be focussed upon the vice and crime which had to be faced.

He supported the Amendment because it seemed to him that to pass Clause 1 now and leave the Bill as it was would be to do something which was going to offend the consciences of at least half the religious people of the country. He knew that the Nonconformists felt a grievance under the Act of 1902. He was not going to argue whether they were right or not. It was enough for him that they felt a grievance. They should, therefore, put their heads together and try to remove the cause of offence. But two wrongs would not make a right, and it seemed to him that they could not redress the grievance, real or supposed, of one religious community and leave a sense of burning injustice on three other religious communities.

He asked the Government to consider the position in which they found themselves. There were 11,800 Church of England schools, and they were asked to consent, in Clause 1, without knowing in the slightest degree what the substitute was going to be, to their being swept away. He was not one of those who thought that the denominational schools were the only means of safeguarding the denominational spirit, but, at the moment, they provided the only way, and they must know what was going to take their place before they consented to that safeguard being taken away. If, however, their lordships decided that it would be more satisfactory to proceed with the discussion of the clause now, he wished it to be clearly understood that, if they were not satisfied with other points in the Bill, their freedom to reject the clause when it came up for Third Reading was absolutely untrammelled.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I am very sorry that we are unable to fall in with the suggestion made by two Members of the House whose opinions we so greatly respect, but I hope that on consideration they may be induced not to press this Amendment. As noble Lords are doubtless aware, a similar Amendment was moved in the House of Commons, and it was moved there on the ground that the Opposition were not really in possession of all the arguments for the later clauses of the Bill. The bare clauses of the Bill, they implied, stared them in the face, but they did not know by what arguments the provisions of the Bill would be pressed. That argument certainly does not apply here. The arguments in favour of all the later clauses of the Bill, or against them, are perfectly familiar to all your Lordships, and, therefore, on that ground it certainly seems to me impossible to press a request of this kind. But, quite apart from that, it certainly does seem to me that when you have Clause 1, which contains the main principle of the Bill, it is very much more satisfactory to face that main principle at once than to set it aside and, as it were, pretend that it does not exist.

What does Clause 1 do? Clause 1 provides that in future all schools are to be council schools, and subsequent clauses go on to say that although they are all to be council schools, they are not all to be council schools of one pattern, but that certain varieties are admitted. I confess it seems to me that the bare fact of passing this clause in no way prevents noble Lords from considering, as they undoubtedly intend to consider by the Amendments they have put on the Paper, what form those varieties are to take. I can quite understand the noble Viscount moving the postponement of the clause, but, as we see from the Amendments standing in his name on the Paper, he would have an entirely different Bill. The noble Viscount's Bill might or might not be a good Education Bill, but it would bear no resemblance whatever to the Education Bill introduced by the Government. The fundamental idea of this Bill is entirely abandoned if we agree to all the Amendments to be proposed by the noble Viscount, and it is perfectly obvious, therefore, that if the noble Viscount persists in moving the postponement we cannot support him.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, with the premises upon which the noble Lord on the cross-benches and the right rev. Prelate founded their arguments I do not for a moment desire to quarrel. It seemed to me that all that they said with regard to this clause was perfectly justified by the facts as we know them. The clause is vague and obscure in its language, and some of the explanations which have been given to us have been equally vague and obscure. There is, therefore, *prima facie* a good deal to be said for the postponement of the clause until such time as fuller information has been vouchsafed to the House upon a number of these controverted points. But, while I admit all that, I should like to suggest to your Lordships one or two considerations which seem to me to tell in the opposite direction.

I think that the very fact that this clause is vague and obscure and that it has been explained in different ways makes it perhaps more desirable that we should lose no time in getting to close quarters with it, and in endeavouring to elicit from His Majesty's Government more specific statements than any which we have yet received. We may, I cannot help thinking, find it possible in the discussion which, if we proceed with the clause, will soon take place, to discover whether this clause is really intended to be what I may describe as a steam-roller clause, whose object is to obliterate all but one single type of elementary schools in this country, or whether it is merely an affirmation, in general terms, that the whole of these schools are to be subject to popular control—a proposition with which I, for one, do not desire to quarrel—but that, subject to the exercise of that popular control, there are to remain in existence a number of various types of schools such as those which have been referred to by the noble Lord who spoke just now.

I desire to take note, and I do so with satisfaction, of what I understood the noble Lord to say on that subject. I understood him to say that it was part of the principle of this Bill, and part of the proposals of His Majesty's Government, that there should still remain what he called schools of various patterns in this country. If that is clearly announced to us, and if we are to understand that our discussion is to be conducted on that assumption and that we shall not be ruled out of order hereafter because we have accepted this clause in the beginning, then I, for one, am ready to continue the debate. The Amendments which have been put upon the Paper by the most rev. Primate and by my noble friend Lord Heneage are likely to afford us an opportunity of raising many points which might with advantage be debated early in our discussion, and I feel strongly that any appearance of dilatory tactics on questions of this kind is, so far as this House is concerned, to be deprecated. It is also true that if the result of our debate should be unsatisfactory to us we shall have a right to recur to this clause at a later stage. Therefore, my Lords, we shall be relieved if the noble Lord and the right rev. Prelate do not ask us to divide upon this Amendment. We, however, should approach the discussion of the clause upon the clear understanding that our assent to it, whether with or without Amendment, leaves us with the retention of full freedom of debate upon the clauses which follow. I will only notice one other observation which fell from the noble Lord. He told us, I think, that we were familiar with the arguments which had been advanced and could be advanced with regard to the later clauses of the Bill. That is true, but only up to a certain point, for the noble Earl must be aware that a great number of these clauses, and some of the most important of them, were never discussed at all in the House of Commons. If, therefore, it should be your Lordships' pleasure to allow the discussion of the clause to proceed, I should take part in that discussion upon the assumption, and upon the condition, that I for one did not in any way forfeit my full discretion of raising these points at a later stage.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK that said if Clause 1 stood alone he should move to reject it altogether. But it was followed by other clauses which tripped it up and made its vagueness more obscure than its own phraseology. He thought they might accept the advice of the noble Marquess and allow Clause 1 to go forward on the condition that they retained their absolute right to deal with the clause on the Report stage. He and those who agreed with him could not accept the fundamental principle of this clause. How far it might be made acceptable was another point.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said that, speaking on behalf of a great number of persons all over the country, he assented to the proposal not to divide the Committee on the principle involved in Clause 1 but only on the distinct understanding that they should be able, by moving other clauses, to secure the existence of denominational schools throughout England, and see that justice was done to all the different denominations. They would not assent to the principle that there should be one class of school throughout the country from which religion should be excluded.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY pointed out that the question was not whether they would pass Clause 1, but whether they would proceed to consider it. As one who was opposed to dilatory tactics, he was prepared to go forward with Clause 1 on the clear understanding that they did not commit themselves as to their final action with regard to the subsequent clauses of the Bill as a whole.

THE EARL OF MEATH said that, as a moderate Churchman, he had come down to the House determined to support the Amendment standing in the names of Lord Llandaff and of the right rev. Prelate. He was, however, quite willing to fall in with the suggestion of the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, but he thought the Committee ought to have some statement from His Majesty's Government that they accepted the noble Marquess's proposal.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): If your Lordships pass Clause 1 as it stands, or in a modified form, it will not in the least interfere with legitimate discussion upon any other clause.

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF said that for his part he was prepared to accept Lord Lansdowne's proposal, subject to the conditions which the noble Marquess himself had expressed. They were asked in Clause 1 to say that there should be no school henceforward in this country except county council schools. That was a proposition to which he could not assent unless he was assured by clauses in the Bill, and not by vague statements or promises on the part of individuals, that this was only a flourish of trumpets and that what was really intended was that there should be schools of different kinds. He did not in the circumstances propose to move any of the Amendments standing in his name to Clause 1, but would wait until the other clauses had been dealt with and then move whatever Amendments he considered necessary on Report.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to amend the clause by substituting "1909" for "1908." He pointed out that the Commission which was to be appointed could not complete its work in a year. Moreover, unless the voluntary schools made an arrangement, they would be destroyed on 1st January, 1908, and the fixing of this date would be an invitation to a "pig-headed" local authority not to make an arrangement.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'eight,' and insert the word 'nine.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, the noble Earl's Amendment is of a sweeping character, for he proposes to postpone the operation of the whole of the first part of the Bill for twelve months.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: No, no. The noble Earl mistakes me. The Commission will be in operation, and they will be working during the whole of the year 1907. Therefore I am not postponing the operation of the Bill.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am very glad to have the noble Earl's explanation. I merely rose to say that, if the noble Earl will withdraw his Amendment I shall be prepared to accept, in a somewhat modified form, the Amendment which stands on the Paper in the name of Lord Ridley. The proposition I should make would be to insert certain words after the word "eight" in Clause 1, but I am informed that it would not be possible, for technical reasons, to insert those words on this occasion.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Why not?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I will read the words of the proposed Amendment, and then the noble Marquess will see the reason why it cannot be moved until the Report stage. The words I propose to insert after the word "eight" are—

> "Or, as respects the area of any particular local education authority, on and after such later date, not being later than the 1st day of July, 1908, as the Board of Education may appoint on the application of that authority."

That gives an additional six months instead of a year as proposed by the noble Earl. The reason the Amendment cannot be moved on this occasion is that it would not be possible, after the Motion which has been made by the noble Lord, to move to insert "July" instead of the word "January."

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN expressed the hope that the noble Earl, before he made up his mind as to the precise wording of the Amendment he was prepared to accept, would reconsider the matter. As the Bill now stood, and as he supposed it would stand when it became law, there had to be a very considerable amount of work done before the Commissioners could commence their labours. The local education authorities in the counties and county boroughs had to take into consideration the circumstances of all the voluntary schools. They had to communicate with the trustees of those schools; they had to endeavour to arrange with them; and if they could not arrange, there was a provision for an appeal to the Board of Education. He thought it was absolutely impossible that all this could be got through in any county before the end of six months from the passing of the Act. Therefore six months of the year 1907 would in all probability elapse before the Commissioners could commence their work at all. How was it possible, then, that they could conclude their work, which might relate to thousands of schools, by the end of the year 1908? It was not a question of postponing the date merely on the application of a particular authority. What was really required was that the date should be postponed for the whole country so that time might be allowed for doing the work which it was necessary should be done under the Bill, and which he was quite sure His Majesty's Government desired should be properly done.

LORD BURGHCLERE thought it would be better to give more elasticity by using the words for which a precedent would be found in the Act of 1902:—

> "This Act shall come into operation on the appointed day, and the appointed day shall be the 26th day of March, 1903, or such other day, not being more than eighteen months later, as the Board of Education may appoint."

He did not suggest to the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council that he should give quite such a large limit as eighteen months, but he thought it would be better, in framing the Amendment, to give more elasticity than was proposed.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said he was quite satisfied that something on the lines of what the Government proposed would work better than any general rule, as suggested by the noble Lord opposite. There were a great many negotiations to be entered into in some districts and very few in others, and any uniform rule would therefore be inadvisable and would not meet the various conditions. He thought the extension should be adapted to the needs of the locality. There was another point. So long as the intermediate state existed the schools which had not become council schools would be working under the Act of 1902, and under that Act it was the duty of the managers to carry out all repairs necessary for the keeping of the school in good sanitary condition. With this Bill in the air managers of aided schools were not being compelled to carry out these improvements, but, if a long interval before transition took place, local authorities which were not very friendly to the aided schools would be much more ready to enforce their conditions as to structural repairs.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said the allowance of such time as would be necessary would be far more likely to lead to a workable arrangement. What was required was an elastic period. It was impossible to say how long it would be before the arrangements could be come to. He thought the matter should be left in the discretion of the Board of Education.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY said he would consider the effect of the Government's suggestion before moving the Amendment of which he had given notice and to which the noble Earl the Lord President had referred.

*LORD AMPTHILL asked whether it would not be well to decide what the Bill was to be before discussing when it should come into operation. He regarded the question of the date as a purely administrative one, and advised its postponement to a later stage.

LORD GRIMTHORPE said that if their Lordships would look at Clause 11. they would see that there was a provision that when a schoolhouse was taken over by the local education authority temporarily without an arrangement having been made, the religious instruction in the school was to remain of the same character as that previously given, and the teachers would go on imparting it. There would be no change in the arrangements in the school in the meantime. As to the point that the Commissioners might not have concluded their labours in the time stated, he quoted Clause 10, sub-section (6), which provided that His Majesty might, by Order in Council, continue the powers of the Commissioners for such further period as His Majesty thought fit. This to some extent met the objection raised.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY urged that the date should be further postponed in view of the large number of schools to be dealt with. There were 8,000 Church of England schools and only 200 legal days in the year, and it had been pointed out in the House of Commons that, on an average of one school being taken per day, it would take forty years to cover the whole of the 8,000 schools. He desired to know on what basis the Government had proceeded in fixing the date. In the event of a large number of schools not having been dealt with by the extended time, what was to happen? Mr. Birrell had stated that in that case fresh legislation would be required. But why should not that question be dealt with at the present time?

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE) said the object of the Government at the time the Bill was introduced was, bearing in mind all the circumstances of the case, to choose such a period as would seem reasonable to those who had had experience of carrying out the complicated class of questions which undoubtedly would arise when this Bill was placed on the Statute Book. He could assure his noble friend Viscount St. Aldwyn that he fully appreciated the necessity of not driving local authorities too hard in regard to the matter of time. The noble Viscount knew from his experience, as many noble Lords did, how very complicated the questions were which arose in regard to the transfer of trusts, buildings, and other matters of that kind, especially when a local authority and a body of private persons were brought into contact, with an appeal either to a Commission or to the Board of Education as the case might be.

The Government had borne those considerations in mind, but he was quite willing to grant that the circumstances had slightly altered since the Bill was introduced. When the Bill was first brought in—and a reference to the debates in the House of Commons would corroborate this—it was assumed that there was a reasonable chance of its being placed on the Statute Book in the course of the ordinary session; that was to say, that it would have been on the Statute Book by now. But here they were, on the 29th of October, discussing the Bill in Committee. Therefore, it was quite clear that a large portion of the time which the Government desired to give to the local authorities to make arrangements had been lost through circumstances over which they had no control. That period was from the passing of the Act till 1st January, 1907. His noble friend the Lord President of the Council had voluntarily come forward and acknowledged the fact, and proposed to add a period corresponding on the whole to that which would have been lost by effluxion of time to the period named in the first clause, after which no school was to be recognised as a matter of principle unless it was a provided school.

As the Bill stood now, the periods were as follow. From the 1st of January, 1907, to the 31st December 1908, the power continued to make arrangements as distinct from schemes. During that period the local education authority, however, might also apply to the Commission for a scheme, and naturally those cases which were plain and simple would come into line first. The more difficult ones, where arrangements might be found impossible, would no doubt go on being discussed for some time, and eventually the local education authority would take them to the Commission for a final decision if necessary. If no arrangement was made, therefore, before the 31st December, 1908, the local education authority went before the Commission, and the Commission had power to make a scheme as distinct from an arrangement. But there was nothing whatever to prevent an arrangement being discussed and registered as distinct from a scheme made by the Commission. The powers of the Commission naturally expired on the 31st December, 1908, but, as his noble friend behind him had pointed out, there was an actual power in Clause 10 to prolong the existence of the Commission. He mentioned this in answer to the question put by the noble Marquess opposite. The Government would take advantage of the power in Clause 10 to prolong the existence of the Commission if necessary.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY.—What about the schools in the meantime?

*LORD FITZMAURICE was surprised that the question was asked, as the position of the schools and their temporary use in the event of the prolongation of the Commission's powers was clearly dealt with in Clause 11.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said the noble Lord had not answered Lord Salisbury's question. As he understood it, the Commission would not begin work in contested cases until the 1st of January, 1908, but, if every school was to become a provided school on that date, what would be the position of a denominational school which had become a provided school, and yet had not settled its future, but had to go before the Commission? That seemed to him to be an important point which would not be met by the extension proposed by the noble Earl the Lord President.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I think the noble Viscount is in error in one respect. The Commission begins its work, not on the 1st of January, 1908, but on the 1st of January 1907.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: There is to be a year preliminary to the work of the Commission, during which the local authorities and owners of the schools are to negotiate.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: No. The noble Viscount is in error. The two things go on together. The plan as adumbrated by my right hon. friend in the other House was this, that from the passing of the Bill, which he hoped would be in September, to the 1st of January next, bargains might be matured between the two parties; that during 1907 bargains might go on being matured, but the Commission would be at work dealing with such cases as it could. If cases cannot be considered in the time mentioned in the Bill, it is possible for the King in Council to prolong the labours of the Commission. Therefore, the the only difference between the state of things now and the state of things which existed when the matter was discussed in another place is that the preliminary period for bargaining, which was to be up to the 1st January next, is curtailed by the fact that we are still considering the Bill. It is in consideration of that fact that we are offering six months more during which the process of bargaining can go on.

Lord ASHBOURNE would prefer to see the words proposed by the Government in print. It was his impression that they were not adequate, as they would make the extension of time conditional on the application of the local education authority. He suggested that "the owner or any party interested" should also have the power of application.

The Earl of CREWE: I can understand that it is not easy for noble Lords opposite to grasp the full meaning and intention of a rather complicated sentence once read across the Table, and although I think it would be quite possible to put the clause into a form which would get over the difficulty which my noble friend behind me suggested, I am quite willing to postpone the consideration of the whole of this matter until the Report stage. At the same time I wish to say we are in full accord with my noble friend Lord Stanley of Alderley, that it is not a desirable thing in itself to make this period of negotiation and settlement longer than is necessary. We feel very strongly that it would be of no assistance to either party. We do not believe it would be any advantage to the voluntary schools to have the period indefinitely extended, and, therefore, we shall try to get the whole business put down for settlement at as early a date as we can, subject to the considerations I have already mentioned.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I should like to ask the noble Earl, before this discussion closes, whether there is any serious objection to the form of words which has been put on the Paper by the noble Viscount, Lord Llandaff, and by the noble Lord behind me, Viscount Ridley. We are all agreed that the clause will not do as it stands. The noble Earl makes a proposal which is evidently most considerately intended, but which we understand would give an extension of six months. In our view, what is really needed is that the period should not be stereotyped, that it should not be a fixed period of general application, but that there should be in it an element of general elasticity which would enable the Board of Education, in consultation with the local education authority, to give a reasonable extension where the local circumstances called for an extension.

The Marquess of RIPON: The real difference between my noble friend behind me and Lord Ridley is simply this. Lord Ridley's Amendment is entirely indefinite and fixes no limit to the period during which the uncertain state of things may be continued. What my noble friend the Lord President of the Council desires is to have a period——

The Marquess of SALISBURY: It leaves it to the Board of Education.

The Marquess of RIPON: It leaves it to the Board of Education to fix the period and not to the Act of Parliament. We say let the Board of Education have the power to extend the period from the time laid down in the Bill, but let a time be fixed beyond which the Board of Education cannot extend it. It is surely not desirable to keep up this uncertain state of things for a long time. The sooner these things are settled and brought to a conclusion the better. We admit that the period fixed in the Bill must, through circumstances already described, be extended. We offer an extension of six months. The noble Lord opposite proposes that the Board of Education should have the power of extension for an indefinite period. I would venture to suggest to your Lordships that, after the discusion which has arisen, it would be better to let this matter rest until the Report stage. On that stage you will have the proposals of the Government in the form in which you may deliberately consider them.

**The Earl of HALSBURY** acquiesced in the suggestion of the noble Marquess the Leader of the House, and said that in his opinion nothing would be lost by postponing the discussion on this point.

**The Earl of CAMPERDOWN** said he would withdraw his Amendment, but he desired to call the attention of the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council to the fact that by far the greater number of speakers had expressed themselves in favour of an elastic period. Therefore, if the noble Earl merely proposed to fix the 1st of July instead of the 1st of January it was extremely doubtful whether that would prove acceptable to the House. He thought the words in the Amendment standing in the name of Viscount Ridley—

> "Or such later date as the Board of Education shall appoint in any district"

dealt with the matter in a more satisfactory way.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Lord EMLY** moved an Amendment limiting the operation of the Clause to "any school area in which there is but one public elementary school." He said that perhaps the best way to introduce this Amendment was by quoting some words from the speech of the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council. The noble Earl said—

> "In this clause, to put it briefly, the object which we believe we effect is to place an undenominational school within the reach of every child whose parent desires him to attend one, and by so doing we remove one principal grievance of which the Nonconformist churches have complained. That is one half, at any rate, of what is known as the Nonconformist grievance. It is admitted, I believe, by almost everybody."

It was because they admitted this grievance that he proposed this Amendment. They were perfectly ready to respect the Nonconformist conscience, but they required that the Nonconformists should respect their conscience. It was during the course of the same debate that the noble Earl said—

> "I am almost tempted to wish that for once in a way the two Houses could have sat together on this subject in joint session. I feel that the debates which would then have followed would have not merely been exceedingly instructive, but also very possibly somewhat exciting!"

At all events, with this pious wish of the Lord President of the Council he was in complete accord. In their Lordships' House His Majesty's Government cooed as an enamoured turtle dove. They recognised to a great extent the claims which the Church of England had put forward. They almost shed tears at being so cruelly misunderstood. They sympathised with Roman Catholics; they patted the Jew on the back; they lisped so prettily about the prayers they had learned at their mothers' knees. But apparently the same climatic conditions did not prevail in another place. The voice of the turtle dove was no longer to be heard. The wooing was another sort of wooing. It was the wooing of the buffeted waves by a mid-winter north-wester. It was an undisguised attack, interlarded with meanness and threats, with sneers and jeers on the State Church and the clergy. It was, in some quarters at all events, a not thinly-veiled demonstration even against Christianity.

Not so long ago a great nation, and a nation still in the first blush of resplendent youth, a rising sun where West met East, despatched a Commission to study what particular form of religion was best suited to meet the requirements of their people. As he listened in another place he thought that that Commission had resumed its suspended sittings. When Lord R. Cecil taunted His Majesty's Government with wantonly turning the clergy out of the schools, did His Majesty's Government indignantly deny this accusation? Not they. From the Ministerial Benches rang out a lusty chorus of "hear, hear." The Christian people of England would never forget Catholic France, would never forget the language of the President of the Board of Trade, "Clericalism is the enemy." The President of the Board of Trade had by his wild hurtling words caused deep pain to millions of French Catholics. Allied by ties of blood to French Catholics he (Lord Emily) claimed the indulgence of their Lordships whilst in their name he gave feeble expression to their just indignation. Let him first give one bit of advice to the President of the Board of Trade. The *entente cordiale* would not suffer by British Ministers refraining from noisy meddlings with purely French politics.

"Clericalism is the enemy." It was the war cry of the Revolution, that time of desolation when a nation was being scourged by God and Hell was let loose, and murder and rapine brazenly stalked through the land and bubbling cataracts of blood poured into the streets from off the quivering guillotines. Later on it was the war cry of Gambetta. To the present day it was the war cry of infidelity in France, of atheism and of materialism. Nor was this all. The President of the Board of Trade had gone out of his way to gloat over the spoliation of the Church in France, the sacking of the monasteries and of the convents, the closing of the churches, the indignities to which the priests were subjected, the lease of the churches to impious adventurers, and the secularisation of the schools.

But though the words of the President of the Board of Trade were uncalled for, injudicious and hurtful, and his reasoning narrow-minded and false in the very highest degree, still when he went to France for a parallel to the struggle into which, unfortunately, it would appear that we were about to drift in this country his instinct was right. There was a parallel awful and convincing to those who had eyes to see—but he had missed it. The tactics presently pursued by a certain reckless section of politicians in this country were the same as achieved such a dire result in France. It was the same literature distributed broad cast here that spread the rot there. It was the same doctrine inculcated here that was inculcated there.. The marionettes were being pulled by the same strings here as there. When we listened to, or read, certain speeches, when we perused certain literature we wondered, we thought we had already read, somewhere, something to that effect. So we had. It was a rehash from Condorcet, from Diderot, from Jean Jacques Rousseau; and when the President of the Board of Trade shouted "Clericalism is the enemy" he was shouting as the Revolution shouted, as Gambetta shouted, as the Commune shouted the day they murdered the hostages—the Archbishop and the other priests. What hostages? The hostages to indifference to religion, to State catechisms, to secularism. When the Secretary of State for India wrote—

> "The disadvantages and inconveniences of legal interference with parental freedom are more than counterbalanced by the disadvantages and inconveniences arising from a parent's abuse of this freedom to the detriment of other people,"

he was only a plagiarist. It was mere music piracy from his illustrious masters Robespierre and Danton. Did they doubt it? Robespierre said—

> "It is the right of the State to educate her children."

Danton said—

> "The children belong to the Republic before they belong to their parents . . . . What matters to us the wish of the individual as against the wish of the State."

When we glanced over this clause we remembered that in France the Assembly edited the catechism. A stringent law enacted that schools were to be closed where teachers presumed to teach any other religion. Even the Assembly recognised the existence of a Supreme Being.

*LORD AMPTHILL, rising to a point of order, asked whether it was right for the noble Lord to make a speech that was entirely irrelevant to his Amendment. He should be reluctant to move that the noble Lord be no longer heard, but he did hope the noble Lord would confine his remarks to the Amendment.

LORD EMLY said he would certainly confine himself to the Amendment; but he understood distinctly when they were discussing whether Clause I should be postponed that they were at perfect liberty. He would content himself, then, with moving his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 8, after the word 'eight,' to insert the words 'in any school area in which there is but one public elementary school.'"—(*Lord Emly.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I hope the noble Lord will not consider me discourteous if I address myself to his Amendment. The Amendment standing in his name on the Paper proposes to confine the operation of this Bill to what are somewhat vaguely talked of as single school areas. But I am afraid the words in which it is couched do not effect that object. There is, for instance, no definition of a school area, and, as his Amendment stands, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to say to what schools the provisions would apply. What my noble friend undoubtedly wishes is to confine the operation of the Bill to school areas where there is no alternative school for a child to attend. But I am afraid the words on the Paper would not carry out the object he has in view. On the general merits, I am bound to say that we could not agree to any Amendment which would practically have the effect of striking out of the Bill all the urban schools in England, and no doubt a good many others.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord HENEAGE moved to add at the end of the clause the following proviso—

"And unless some portion of the school hours of every day is set apart for the purposes of religious instruction."

He disclaimed any political or sectarian object in moving his Amendment, and reminded their Lordships that he voted against the Second Reading of the Act of 1902. He therefore approached this subject with a perfectly free and unbiassed mind as regarded that Act. He wished at the outset to associate himself with the searching criticisms of Clause 1 which were so eloquently made by Lord Goschen on the previous Thursday. Like the most rev. Primate, he (Lord Heneage) did not look upon this religious question as a Church question, but as a great national question—namely, whether this country was to remain a Christian nation.

Naturally, as a Churchman he desired as far as possible, with due regard to the really conscientious scruples of others, the teaching of the Church of England in all schools. That would be, in his mind, an ideal solution, and Lord Ampthill had adumbrated that policy as practised in Germany in his Amendments; but he feared it was no longer practical. They must remember that they had had thirty-five years or more of education since the Act of 1870, and he therefore wished to acknowledge accomplished facts. He desired under the present Bill, if it became an Act, to secure for all children some religious instruction within schools hours, and if possible by the teachers themselves. Under Clause 1 voluntary or non-provided schools would cease to exist, and there was no provision at all for religious instruction, either definite or undenominational, whilst it was clear from other portions of the Bill that religious instruction was not to be given in school hours; nor need children attend it nor the teachers give such instruction. In the case of denominational teaching the teachers were expressly forbidden even if willing to give it.

Mr. Birrell had described the Bill as an undenominational Bill, but it was not so; it was an anti-denominational and secular Bill. The Bill was simply a collection of clauses to abolish voluntary and Church schools, and it came before their Lordships without any Parliamentary credentials or authority, and in direct opposition to Ministerial speeches and of the vote against a secular Bill in the House of Commons. If the Bill had been framed on the speeches of Ministers in the other House, however objectionable it might be to some of them, it still would be a fair and reasonable measure. But those speeches had never been translated into clauses in the Bill. Perhaps owing to circumstances over which he had no control, and owing to the Bill being debated under the Closure, Mr. Birrell had not been able to give effect to some of those promises which he had intended to fulfil, and he hoped their Lordships would endeavour to put those promises into effect. In his (Mr. Birrell's) April speech there was a memorable passage in which he urged the importance of the preservation of idealism—

"in a prosaic age and among a somewhat prosaic people. 'Where no vision is the people perisheth.' Our people have been accustomed to look for such scanty glimpses as they have obtained of the Heavenly Vision in the pages of the Bible."

At that time Mr. Birrell must have been in favour of some religious education in the schools. On the Third Reading, again, Mr. Birrell made an earnest appeal to the Labour Members not to associate themselves with secularism in education. He said—

> "I would venture to say to gentlemen below the gangway if they say, 'Think only of the child'—'Yes, but what is the child, whence came it, whither goes it? Conscience, sin, immortality, are you going to drive all these things out of the ordinary curriculum of the school life? Are you going to leave these things as if they were of no account?' Were this House disposed to do so, which by an overwhelming majority it showed it would not, the parents of the children would not let you do it, nor would the children themselves, at all events for a good many generations to come."

He (the noble Lord) could not imagine two stronger speeches in favour of religious instruction. He believed that the parents would not have secular teaching without proper religious instruction, and it was absurd for the President of the Board of Trade to rail against their Lordships' House because they desired to carry out the wishes of the parents. Why had not the Government carried out the declared wish of the House of Commons by a majority of about 470 to 60 in favour of religious education and against secular education only?

Clause 1 was a destructive, not a constructive, clause. It destroyed all denominational teaching, but did not even substitute undenominational teaching. He asked their Lordships for one moment to take a retrospective view of this question. From 1870, for over thirty years, the education of this country was under the entire control either of school boards or voluntary school managers, and religious education was given and acknowledged as part of our system of education in both schools and was willingly taught by school teachers. The school boards were directly elected *ad hoc* by the parents. Under the Act of 1902 school boards were transferred to the county and borough councils and called provided schools, and voluntary schools were renamed non-provided schools under special conditions. Under that Act the local authorities took over all the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of both the school boards and the managers, but they had taken different views of their duties in regard to religious education. Some local education authorities in the counties and boroughs had excellent syllabuses, others had very indifferent syllabuses, and some none at all. Even in the same county, as, for instance, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, they differed largely; and it was now necessary that it should be clearly laid down and enacted that proper religious instruction should be given in all schools in school hours.

His noble friend the Lord President of the Council had expressed regret at the fact that Nonconformist divines were not represented in their Lordships' House, and the most rev. Primate had expressed the same view. He (Lord Heneage) heartily wished that there were some representative Wesleyan divines in their Lordships' House to speak for themselves. But in their absence he would quote from the report of the Joint Committee of the Wesleyan Conference in July last. Sub-section 3 was as follows—

> "The simple Biblical instruction to be provided in the schools should be given by the teachers within school hours by means of a syllabus to be prepared by the local education authority under the conditions of the Cowper-Temple clause, and should be subject to a conscience clause."

And in a Nonconformist manifesto directly afterwards they asked the Press to be permitted to state that—

> "We regard instruction in Biblical truth as an essential factor in the education of the young; and while we deprecate the use of any religious Catechism or of any distinctively denominational formulary, we hold strongly that the Bible should be taught as an authentic and authoritative record of fact and truth, and that instruction given in Holy Scripture should not be inconsistent with the Apostles' Creed, which represents the general consent of Christendom in the fundamental facts of the Christian religion."

He could not see any difficulty in the Board of Education framing a model syllabus with the assistance of experts of the Christian denominations or on the basis of the best existing syllabuses. The Grimsby syllabus, which was one of the best, was framed by a sub-committee of the school board, consisting of the chairman, who was a popular Congregationalist, the late Vicar of Grimsby, and the Roman Catholic priest. There was no doubt that all Christian parents of all denominations desired religious teaching for their children as part of the recognised system of education in the school hours, and by the teachers, if possible.

In the House of Commons two-thirds of the whole House had voted in favour of definite religious instruction against only sixty who voted for secular teaching, without distinction of politics or religious creeds. At the Wesleyan Conference at Nottingham in July last, the Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, in proposing resolutions after the Report, said that he—

> "rejoiced that Parliament had refused to sanction the principle of secularism."

Then why did not the Government give effect to this vote? Dr. Pope had recorded his satisfaction that the—

> "Education Bill provides for the continuance of simple Biblical instruction in elementary schools."

He did not know where it was in the Bill, but Dr. Pope clearly believed and hoped it was there. The venerable Dr. Rigg, the nestor of the Conference, said—

> "This is the most critical and perhaps most favourable and perhaps most dangerous crisis in the life of England, and the burden of it rests upon Christian educators and education."

Mr. Middlemore, of Leeds, was anxious that they should—

> "recognise the conscientious views of those who differed from them, and said there was in the North of England a strong tendency towards secularism amongst those who were disgusted with the controversies amongst the denominations."

Mr. Perks, though he tried to drag the political red-herring across the discussion, was not very successful, and seemed more concerned about the six types of schools in the Bill than about any practical Amendments by their Lordships.

He apologised for detaining their Lordships with so many quotations, but he hoped they would recognise their great authority at this moment when certain political dissenters affected to speak for the whole body of Protestant Nonconformity. The result of adopting his Amendments to other clauses of the Bill as it stood would be to carry out Mr. Birrell's own principles, and, whilst in undenominational schools the religious teaching of the syllabus would be given every day within school hours, in schools in which facilities were given under Clause 2 there would be two days of denominational and three days of undenominational religious teaching each week.

He had endeavoured to show that this was neither a denominational nor a Church question. It was a question of whether or not the poorer children of a Christian country should be properly educated in the simple truths of the Christian religion. He had shown that when the parents had the power and elected the school boards, under their influence religious teaching was given, whilst even under the control of the county councils it had also very generally been given. He had therefore shown that Christian Protestant Nonconformists no less than Churchmen and Roman Catholics desired that religious instruction should be given by the teachers and within school hours. It was to his mind most essential that the religious teaching should be given within school hours, and, if possible, by the teachers, and that the register should be marked at 9 o'clock. If not, there would be neither discipline nor punctuality, and children would stay away. Children must not be allowed to consider religious teaching of no, or even secondary, importance, or parents to become indifferent to it.

If he had dealt with this Amendment from the broader aspect of securing some Christian religious teaching in all schools rather than from the point of view of more definite religious instruction, it was because he knew the strong feeling on this point amongst the Christian Nonconformists and especially the Protestant Wesleyans in Lincolnshire. He had lived all his life, for over forty years, in the county which was the home of John Wesley. He knew the religious honesty of the Wesleyans and the sacrifices they made for their chapels and Sunday schools, and he had never known any religious difficulty there. The Amendment was now in their Lordships' hands. It was for them to decide, under a divine Providence, whether our old country should remain in the future as in the past one of the leading Christian countries of the world, or whether, under this Bill in its present shape, the children now and the manhood and womanhood of future generations should gradually drift into secularism, socialism, and atheism.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'and unless some portion of the school hours of every day is set apart for the purposes of religious instruction.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, who had given notice of the following Amendment, viz.—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'and unless religious instruction is provided therein either by persons making use of facilities granted under this Act or by the local education authority for every child attending the school who is not withdrawn from such instruction,'"

—said that the Amendment which stood in his name did not differ in fundamental principle from the Amendment which the noble Lord had just moved. He preferred the wording of his own Amendment, but he should not make the difference between the two Amendments a matter of controversy. He ventured to hope the Amendment would be accepted by the Government, and that it might go forth with the unanimous approval ol the Committee. He was glad it should have been moved by Lord Heneage rather than by himself, because he thought it was eminently desirable that it should be obvious that this was not an ecclesiastical matter—that it did not come from ecclesiastics, whether they were bishops or other clergy, but that it came from the sense of a Christian people as to what they wanted.

The subject-matter of the Amendment was vital. Its acceptance was a matter of importance. The Amendment seemed to him to accord with almost all that the foremost spokesmen on behalf of the Government, either in Parliament or outside of it, had said as to their wishes in pressing this legislation on the country. Again and again they had been assured that care was being taken that this should be a Bill which had a religious element, if not a religious basis, and that there was nothing of a secularist tendency in it. He found it difficult to give full weight to those assurances. He found in the Bill provisions that religious education when given should be given outside school hours; that apart from the question of conscience, which he would be the first to respect, the teacher need not give religious instruction, and that the children need not attend it. It seemed to him, therefore, that in a sense the Bill was a secularising Bill, which gave an inferior place to religious teaching as compared with other instruction. That was why he desired that they should put in the forefront of the Bill a declaration that they meant the contrary.

He wanted it to be clear at the outset that the Bill should include within its range this question of the giving of religious instruction. There was no word in this Amendment to interfere with the conscientious scruples of parents who desired to withdraw their children, and in the Amendment which he had himself placed upon the Paper he had specially provided that it applied only to children who were not withdrawn from religious instruction. He was thankful to know that in pressing forward this great and sacred cause they had the support of leading Nonconformist ministers, whose opinions were entitled to the highest respect, and of some of the foremost lay Nonconformist spokesmen.

He had purposely abstained from putting any details into his Amendment as to what the religious education should be. He wanted a simple declaration to stand in the forefront of the Bill in the very plainest terms, that there should be religious instruction in the large and general sense of the word. He hoped that under the Bill as it would leave their Lordships' House it would be rendered possible that religious instruction of both sorts might be given in the elementary schools.

He had tried to anticipate what objection could reasonably be raised to this. It might be said that they should trust the local authorities. He yielded to no one in his readiness to trust the local education authorities throughout England for the most part. But could there be any doubt that it was only with a certain reserve that they could speak of that trust as a universal thing? The Return for which he moved a few months ago, and which was furnished in a most valuable and clear shape by the Education Department, showed that there were some important boroughs and great populations in which, as a matter of plain fact, little children were growing up in council schools without religious instruction. It was only an exceedingly small minority of local education authorities who did not provide for religious education; but if they took the number of children in schools in which no religious instruction was given and the number of children in schools in which the religious instruction if given was not examined and was often most inadequate, they would find that wholly apart from the use of the conscience clause, tens of thousands of children were growing up without adequate religious instruction in the elementary schools which they were compelled to attend. In face of that plain fact, he wished the religious character of the Bill to be set forth on its very forefront.

An argument used not infrequently by the Minister for Education was that the local education authority was much more likely to do what they wanted them to do if they did not "order." It seemed to him to be a miserable imputation upon the character for independence and thoughtfulness of the local education authorities to say that they would be debarred from doing what they otherwise would have done, simply because the country and Parliament had declared that it ought to be done. It might be said that the administrative difficulty would be exceedingly great, and that it would be undesirable to lay down any such rule unless it could be enforced. To this he replied that there were in our educational legislation many matters upon which rules were laid down without there actually being the means of enforcing their observance.

Such additional words as had been suggested would serve as a declaration of principle besides giving a useful direction to the authority as to what should be the natural course of their action. It was not proved that such a rule could not be enforced, and even if it were proved it would not be conclusive against the proposal. The Cowper-Temple clause in the Act of 1870 declared that there should not be any religious formularies of a distinctive kind taught to the children, and it might have been said that that was difficult to enforce, but in the main the Cowper-Temple clause had been obeyed because it was known that such was the will of the nation as expressed in Parliament. This Amendment presented an almost exact analogy. The Code annually issued by the Board of Education had for the year the force of an Act, and it contained a great number of things extremely difficult to enforce. The last code set forth in quite admirable words full directions as to the moral and ethical teaching which ought to be given; was this to be enforced by *mandamus*? Without dwelling on the difference in the words, he earnestly hoped the Committee would accept either the Amendment proposed by Lord Heneage, or that of which he had given notice.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY supported the Amendment, preferring it to that standing in the name of the Archbishop, because it appeared to him from the generality of its language to be more germane to the principle of the clause and because it contained the words "some portion of the school hours of every day." Without these words the authority would not have sufficient direction. On the other hand, he would prefer that the first clause should not contain an explicit reference to the local authority as a religious body. As to the necessity of the Amendment as a whole, it was said that few authorities would fail to provide sufficient instruction. But would that always be the case? There could be no doubt that the fact of denominational schools standing by the side of board schools had had an influence upon the religious teaching given in the latter.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, this, as your Lordships will all agree, is by far the most important Amendment with which we have yet had to deal, making, as it does, not merely a considerable alteration in the Bill, but also a considerable alteration in the law, as it exists at the present time. I entirely agree with what fell from my noble friend opposite—and it is a satisfaction to me in dealing with this first important Amendment that it should be so—that this Amendment as it stands on the Paper does not raise those vexed questions as between Church and dissent that are likely, I am afraid, to be raised by some of the other Amendments on the Paper.

As this Amendment stands, your Lordships will see that all that it does is to make the provision of what is called the Cowper-Temple religion, that is to say, religious instruction not inconsistent with Clause 14 of the Act of 1870, compulsory in the council schools. That is practically its own operation. I do not for a moment deny that the proposition has an attraction for many persons. It is not a party question. It would have an attraction, I have no doubt, if it could be carried out, for many Liberals and Nonconformists just as it might have for many Conservatives and Churchmen; but I think it is only reasonable to add that there must be a considerable body of persons to whom it is not attractive, but very much the reverse. We have been told, in the course of this controversy, that we are trying to force a form of State religion on the people. The name of my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education has been made the subject of many small pleasantries in this connection. In view of things that have been said, and in view of things which were said yesterday no further off than in Trafalgar Square, I confess I am surprised that the proposition should be considered one which your Lordships and all members of the Church of England are likely to accept. We are told that that form of religion is rejected by many members of the Church of England, and now we are given to understand that by this declaration it is to become universal in all the council schools and that the declaration is one which the Church of England is expected to welcome.

LORD HENEAGE: I did not specify any particular kind of religion in my Amendment. It is open for us to deal with that question when we come to other clauses. I only declare that there must be some definite religion.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am not talking of what the noble Lord's intentions may be. He may mean subsequently to vote for the abolition of the Cowper-Temple religion. It is perfectly true that the noble Lord's Amendment does not specify any kind of religion. As it was first put on the Paper it specified Christian religion, but there is now nothing whatever to prevent its being the Mohammedan or Buddhist religion, provided that it does not contain the catechism or formularies distinctive of any creed. I come to the objections which were anticipated by the most rev. Primate in his speech in favour of the Amendment. But before I do that I may say that the whole question turns on what the quantity and quality of this religious instruction is to be. The most rev. Primate says nothing as to its quantity, but my noble friend opposite does. He says it is to be given every day. By the most rev. Primate's Amendment it need only be given perhaps once a year. But, what is a much more important question, what is the quality of this religious instruction to be? What is the definition of religious instruction?

If noble Lords will look through the syllabuses in the Return mentioned by the most rev. Primate, I imagine that the ideas of many would be entirely different as to which syllabuses gave what could be called religious instruction and which did not. I want to know, further, how is that quality to be estimated, and, as the most rev. Primate said, how are you going to enforce that it shall be given at all? What would the process be? Some kind of teaching which the most rev. Primate would not probably admit to be religious instruction, such as simple reading of the Bible, singing of hymns, and the offering of one or two simple prayers, is thought by some people not to be religious instruction. What steps are they going to take? The most rev. Primate spoke of inspection. He says nothing about inspection in any of his Amendments that I have seen, and if he is going to alter the law by making the religious instruction subject to inspection by officers of the Board of Education, he is effecting a change of which he has given no indication in his Amendments.

The most rev. Primate in his speech threw out the hint about inspecting this instruction as though it would be the simplest thing in the world. What I want to know is, what would actually happen in cases where there was a doubt as to the efficiency of the religious instruction? There is no accepted definition, so far as I know, of the term. If these Amendments are carried, are persons who are aggrieved by what they consider disobedience to the law to appeal to the Board of Education to decide what religious instruction is? Or are they going to the Courts of the country, by applying for a *mandamus*, to ask the Courts of justice to define what religious teaching really is? If they are to go to the Board of Education, it must end in the Board of Education having to do what my noble friend opposite has refrained from asking them to do—namely, to set a standard of religious instruction. Even if they do not publish a syllabus, they must have a private minimum syllabus, and they must see that the religious instruction given in a particular school comes up to that syllabus. That is a work which the Board of Education could not and would not undertake.

The plan would have this further grave disadvantage, that those who managed the schools in the country would never know that the Board of Education might not alter its standard at any particular time according to the views of the particular Minister for Education for the time being. The Board of Education syllabus would be the syllabus of the Minister for Education of the day, and it might easily happen that at some future time a Minister for Education might hold entirely different ideas as to what the minimum of religious instruction ought to be, and he might refuse to admit syllabuses which, for instance, under the present *régime* at that office might pass muster. And equally I cannot contemplate with satisfaction cases of this kind coming before the Courts of the country. It seems to me it would be a most undesirable thing for a Court of law to have to decide what religious instruction is under the terms of an Act such as this.

Then the most rev. Primate spoke of the question of putting compulsion on local authorities, and he seemed to indicate that it was unfair to suppose that local authorities would behave like schoolboys and be driven to object to a thing because they were ordered to do it. That is surely not quite the point. The point is that if, in those comparatively few cases where the local authorities prefer that their schools should be run on secular, or on nearly secular lines, you impose a syllabus or a system of religious instruction which they would not have instituted or organised on their own initiative, you are giving a strong impulse to the ideas which those authorities hold. I cannot conceive anything which would be more likely to lead to a spread of secularism in this country than if those who hold those views are able to hold them in the name of religious liberty; and that is to my mind what the effect would be of forcing upon reluctant authorities the command which you lay upon them by this Amendment. What would be the actual result? They might have to give the teaching. It would be given grudgingly; it would certainly be given badly.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY. Why?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: It would be given badly because it would be given without any enthusiasm. No care whatever would be taken to see that the teacher was in any way competent to give it, and it would have the effect, as I believe, of rousing on behalf of broad, or what are generally known as secular, views, a kind of religious enthusiasm which does not distinguish them at the present moment. In conclusion, I merely wish to call attention to an observation made by my noble friend Lord Heneage. He stated that various Ministers had made speeches, and that those speeches differed in substance from the Bill. If, said he, the Bill and the speeches could only be brought into harmony, the Bill, though he would strongly object to it, would be a fair and reasonable one.

LORD HENEAGE: I said that though I might object to some portions of it, it might be made a fair and reasonable Bill.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Of course if the noble Lord says he did not say so I withdraw. I was merely anxious to call the noble Lord's attention to his statement in order that he might withdraw it himself, because I felt it would be altogether impossible for him strongly to object to anything which he considered reasonable and fair.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, perhaps it may be convenient that I should at this stage say, in a few words, how the two Amendments before the Committee strike some of my noble friends who sit near me. In the first place, I have to say that of the two Amendments we prefer that placed on the Paper by my noble friend Lord Heneage, not because we differ from the most rev. Primate, to whose speech we listened with much pleasure, but on account of the extreme simplicity and directness of the language of my noble friend's Amendment. Simple as its language is, it seems to have been imperfectly apprehended by the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council. I will venture to read the clause as it will stand with my noble friend's Amendment—

> "On and after the 1st day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eight, a school shall not be recognised as a public elementary school unless it is a school provided by the local education authority, and unless some portion of the school hours of every day is set a partfor the purposes of religious instruction."

That is all. It is a simple affirmation that it is desirable that in all these schools, which are henceforth to be of a single type, some portion of the school hours shall be set apart for religious instruction. Not that any particular kind of religious instruction should be given, but that the children should have so far as the time-table is concerned, the opportunity of receiving religious instruction. The noble Earl suggested that the clause involved compulsory Cowper-Temple teaching in all schools.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: No, in such existing council schools as do not now give it.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: But even that is not said in the Amendment. All that the Amendment says is that there shall be an opportunity given to every child in the school to obtain religious instruction.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I was speaking of what the actual effect upon the schools of the Amendment would be if carried.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Then the noble Earl went on to entangle us by conjuring up difficulties in connection with the machinery which might have to be set in motion in order to give effect to the noble Lord's Amendment. The old terrors of the *mandamus* were again paraded in order to intimidate us, and we had suggestions of the different views which might be taken by different Ministers for Education in regard to the syllabus. We are ready to discuss all these things at the proper time, but they do not arise under the Amendment of my noble friend.

We have been told constantly that the great principle of this Bill is the maintenance of public control over these public elementary schools, and I have ventured to say that we do not dispute that proposition. I am not quite sure, however, that we all of us interpret the words "public control" in exactly the same fashion. May I tell the noble Earl what in my view is the best expression of public control in this connection? It seems to me that then and then only do you have public control in the truest sense of the term when the opinion of the majority of the parents of the children is allowed to prevail in reference to this question of religious instruction, and when at the same time you make considerate and liberal provision for the wants of the minority. We intend to support this Amendment because we think it lays, as it were, a kind of foundation upon which the structure of that popular control can be built up when we come to the subsequent clauses of the Bill. That is our idea of public control.

I am afraid the noble Earl's idea of public control is something very different. I think when he and his friends talk to us about public control, what they have in their minds is that you should submit all these things to the despotic jurisdiction of a provincial bureaucracy, which may be entirely out of touch with the real state of feeling in the particular locality with which it has to deal, and allow that bureaucracy to impose upon the schools within that locality a system under which, if the local education authority so choose, every chink and every cranny may be closed against the entrance of religious instruction. We want to render that impossible. We want this Bill to be so framed that there shall at any rate be an opportunity for giving religious instruction to the children.

I should like to ask noble Lords opposite, to whom shall we do violence by carrying this Amendment? Not to the parents of the children, because we know that whatever happens the parent will always be free, on conscientious grounds, to withdraw his child from the school. Not to the local education authority, for the local education authority can, if it is perverse and desires to defeat the intention of the law, step aside and allow facilities to be given in lieu of the education which it might afford itself. Nor, again, is there any violence done by this amendment to the feelings of the teachers, who, we are all agreed, should not be compelled to give any kind of religious instruction of which they conscientiously disapprove. Now, my Lords, who really desires that these opportunities for religious instruction should be altogether withheld from the children of those schools? Not the Minister for Education. His speeches have been often quoted. I will not quote him at length, but here is one passage which seems to me so pregnant that I cannot resist reading it to the House. Speaking on the third reading of the Bill, Mr. Birrell said—

> "It has been the main object and the passionate desire of this Government to do what it can, to secure throughout this country, as an ordinary rule and principle of our school life, that religious education should be given. Nothing has shaken my mind since first I began to think night and day on this subject, that the best way of doing that is to make undenominational teaching of the kind authorised by the Act of 1870, which has behind it the experience of thirty-six years, the ordinary rule of the schools."

All that this Amendment does is to suggest that there should be sufficient opportunity for enforcing that ordinary rule. Nor is the Amendment contrary to the opinion of the representatives of the people in the House of Commons, because we have been reminded already by the most rev. Primate of the emphatic expression of opinion against secular education which was lately given when this Bill was in Committee in another place. And the same thing is true of the leaders of Nonconformist opinion in this country. Their views have been quoted, and I will not repeat them; but it would be easy to multiply quotations showing that the opinion of the leading Nonconformists is strong and solid against the exclusion of religious teaching from the curriculum of the schools. Then, my Lords, with regard to the Act of 1870 and the Cowper-Temple clause. We are told that this is an invasion of the settlement of 1870, and an encroachment upon the Cowper-Temple clause. But it is not we who are uprooting the settlement of 1870; it is noble Lords opposite and their friends.

THE EARL OF CREWE: 1902.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The Act of 1902 followed the example of the Act of 1870 in preserving the existence side by side of two types of school—the voluntary and the provided. It is noble Lords opposite and their friends who for the first time propose to substitute for those two types of school a single type, perhaps not absolutely uniform, but a single type from which many of the characteristics of the old voluntary schools will entirely disappear; and, therefore, I am not in the least deterred by arguments based on the sanctity of the settlement of 1870 and the Cowper-Temple clause. If we are to have, as we are told we shall have, a single type of school, we say, Let there be at any rate this one characteristic running through the whole of the schools of that type, that they shall keep the door open for religious instruction. The noble Earl opposite conjured up many difficulties arising out of the action of reluctant local authorities. I venture to express my agreement with what was said by the most rev. Primate. I have yet to learn that the local authorities will fly in the teeth, not only of an Act of Parliament, but of public opinion declared as it has been again and again upon this subject.

Those are, stated very simply, the reasons which induce us to regard with favour the Amendment of my noble friend behind me, and all I can say is that if noble Lords opposite deny us this concession, for which we ask in the name of religious instruction, their attitude will be somewhat difficult to defend before the judgment of the country. The people of this country will not have been slow to notice the constantly repeated professions of His Majesty's Ministers in favour of the admission of religious instruction. This Amendment is a test of the sincerity of noble Lords opposite and their friends. If they are unwilling to concede to us what my noble friend asks for, we shall then know what amount of confidence to repose in their frequently reiterated professions that religious instruction ought to be an essential and inseparable part of the education of our children.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, I have very few observations to make in answer to the speech of the noble Marquess who has just sat down. In the year 1870 the provided schools of this country were placed under the control of education authorities, in whom was vested a discretion whether any, and if so, what, religious instruction should be given, subject to certain definite restrictions of the Cowper-Temple clause; that is to say, during the last thirty-six years the schools of the country have been carried on without any declaration of the character suggested by the Amendment being contained in any Act of Parliament. The results have not been unsatisfactory. On the contrary, I understood from the most rev. Primate that he was gratified at the general results, although he—and I think with truth—pointed out that there might have been exceptional cases here and there in which religious education was withheld or only a stunted form of it given.

Then came the Act of 1902, in which the whole of this subject was reconsidered. I will not do the noble Marquess opposite the injustice of suspecting him and his friends of the insincerity which he rather imputes to us; but I would ask, if noble Lords opposite were animated by so strong a sense of the injustice of allowing the schools to remain without the declaration that there should be religious instruction in them, why did they not propose an Amendment similar to this in the Act of 1902. Of course, the real difficulty is that although you may put in the declaration that there shall be religious instruction in the schools, if you only keep the words general enough and wide enough—and I observe that my noble friend Lord Heneage plumes himself on the extreme generality of his expression—you can lay down the most noble maxim upon which you can pride yourselves, without any obligation attaching to it. That is exactly the case of the Amendment now before your Lordships.

The Amendment leaves every solitary difficulty unsettled. It is a flag and nothing else. We are not told who is to decide what the religious education is to be or what the creed is to be, whether it is to be left to the discretion of the local authority or whether it is to depend on the desire of the parents or the wishes of the Minister for Education of the day. Nor does the Amendment tell us how the education is to be imparted, whether by teachers or by ministers of religion. And how are you going to settle the difficulties, so familiar, of having only one schoolroom and four or five different creeds to be taught? In the action we are taking there is nothing inconsistent with the sincerity of my right hon. and learned friend Mr. Birrell. We are not refusing this Amendment because we think it is a departure from anything that Mr. Birrell or any other Minister has said. We are refusing it solely because it is not business. We are being asked to assent to a perfectly general and vague statement of a maxim against which I have not a word to say; but I do want to know what it is that it would commit me to before I vote upon it.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said the answer to the noble Lord was one of the greatest simplicity. The broad principle of the Amendment was that education to be worth anything must be religious. How the religious instruction was to be given, by whom, under what conditions, were points not touched by the Amendment. What they desired was that religion should be an integral part of the education of the country. The noble Lord had asked why the noble Marquess had not put down such an Amendment to the Act of 1902; the answer was that the circumstances had not arisen which made it necessary. But under the present Bill religious education was outside school hours; no teacher need give it, and no child need attend. This Amendment would not in the least preclude such a subsequent Amendment as that which was moved by Mr. Chamberlain in the other House, by which the State was to supply the secular part of education and to assist the different denominations to teach their children what they insisted on being taught.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said he would not have risen but for the remarks of the Lord Chancellor with regard to the Act of 1902, for which he (Lord Londonderry) was largely responsible. That Act did not in any way touch the board school system, and consequently he was at a loss to know what sort of Amendment the noble and learned Lord would have had the noble Marquess introduce. Their object in the Act of 1902 was to relieve voluntary schools of an intolerable strain and give them the justice to which they were entitled.

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I think that is a perfectly just observation. My criticism was that if this was such a wrong thing to allow to continue, why was it not amended then.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the Lord Chancellor had expressed confidence in the local authorities, but there were local authorities and local authorities, and they could not discriminate between them when legislating. Local authorities would not all act in the same spirit; in Wales, for example, there were local authorities which gave no religious instruction at all. In Cardiganshire, out of seventy provided schools no religious instruction was given in sixty; in Carmarthenshire, out of 104 schools religious instruction was only given in sixty-nine; while in Pembrokeshire there were eleven schools giving no religious instruction at all. Would noble Lords opposite tell him that they approved of that system? In view of the fact that it was quite possible under the Bill for schools to be turned into secular schools, he maintained that it was the bounden duty of their Lordships to support the Amendment, which was framed in no bigoted and narrow spirit.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON said that this was a question on which it would be very undesirable to take a hasty vote. For his own part, he could not help feeling that the Amendment involved a very deep and important issue, and he was somewhat dismayed to find that the Government did not seem to have any inclination to accept it. As he read the Amendment there was nothing in it that sinned in the direction of a sectarian tendency, nor had he discovered in it the slightest indication of political animus. The Amendment dealt with one simple and imperative principle. It asked that in all schools recognised as public elementary schools religious education should be provided, and the more they reflected upon it and the more they allowed the natural instincts of liberal thought to be brought to bear upon it, the more it would commend itself to their minds and feelings.

The objections which had been raised had been based mainly on the fact that, as the Lord Chancellor had said, although it might be a very innocent and innocuous maxim which everybody would be willing to accept, yet from the view of practical statesmanship it was not business. He asked the attention of the Committee while he endeavoured to show that it was business. It was not a question merely of a maxim to be studied at large and which, because it was large, was to be declared incapable of practical application. The Amendment, so far from having no element of business, ought to be regarded as being full of business, because they had been told that there were a few educational authorities or county councils in the country which had not provided religious teaching at all. He regarded both Houses of Parliament, not merely as places where legislation should be initiated, but as being entrusted with the protection of the liberties of the subject, and therefore as being always open to the appeal that the weak should be protected against the strong. It was unquestionably the case that in those instances in which religious teaching had not been provided the defect, as he ventured to call it, had not been in harmony with the great consensus of opinion of the people of the country. It might be that by an accidental vote or through local circumstances a majority had been obtained on the county council which had exercised its powers to the detriment of the inhabitants of the district concerned, and because those cases had existed he asserted that it was a matter of real business to appeal to members of theirLordships' House to take care that such protection was afforded to the minority as that these outrages upon the rights of parents should not be again perpetrated. If that was said to be not business, he was at a loss to know where business began, because in his view business began wherever any practical result would ensue.

The Amendment was business from another important point of view, namely, of those who had not come down with a vehement desire to oppose everything brought forward by the Government. He might venture to claim for himself that throughout these discussions he had endeavoured to maintain an attitude of the strictest impartiality. He had earnestly wished that this great question, for it was a question of momentous issue, could be settled, not by the strife of extremes, but by the proper and due understanding of that central party of both sides which could arrive at a reasonable compromise. That being so, he asked their Lordships to notice that the Amendment provided a basis for the security of such a compromise, for if the Amendment were rejected then, seeing that the Bill destroyed all those schools in which distinctive religious teaching was given there would inevitably be provoked reaction which must mean what he, for one, would very much deplore—the victory of the extreme denominationalists or of the secularists. Therefore he would welcome any Amendment, and this Amendment in particular, which did form a basis of security for the reasonable compromise which he hoped would be the result of their discussion.

Then he might quote his own personal point of view. To him education without religion was not really or completely education at all, and in making that affirmation he believed he was expressing the firm conviction of 80 or 90 per cent. of the people of the country. He could not look upon religion in any sense of the word as a kind of addition to the instruction given in the schools. According to the first principles of the faith which he professed, the only life which human beings could possess in its fulness was the life in which a recognition of the Divine agency and Divine power took its real place; therefore if they put into the forefront of this Bill an affirmation of their desire that that great principle should be recognised, and if at the very outset of their discussion they were ready to declare that that was a vital principle, they would have laid the foundation of a compromise, because they would have disarmed to a very large extent the hostility—call it sentimental if they pleased—of many who feared this Bill not because it was an Education Bill, but because it was a Bill in which that great principle which they believed lay at the root of their faiths, no matter how various they might be in denominational expression, was either ignored or set at naught. Hence it was a mistake to argue as if the Amendment were not a matter of business. It was a matter of business because it was protective of the weak and because it would afford a real basis for a reasonable compromise as the discussions went on.

Even looked upon as a matter of sentiment, even supposing it were not a matter of business—which he was not prepared to admit—supposing for the sake of argument it were a matter of sentiment, it should be remembered that it was a sentiment which operated in the breasts of four-fifths of the people of this country, and he took it that it was one of the greatest mistakes on the part of any legislature to ignore the sentiment of the people in such a matter as this. As surely as they ignored a great sentiment, they created a great grievance. They had had examples of that times without number. They could recall cases in which agitation had gone on and the argument against the agitation was that it was merely a sentimental grievance. There was the case of the Burials Bill, when he stated that he was prepared to admit that it was a sentimental grievance, but that if they could remove it it was the way of common sense and the way of humanity to endeavour to do so. By and bye the Legislature did remove the grievance which was described as mere sentiment. Were they prepared to say to-day, when the issue which lay before them was whether or not they should affirm that religion was to be a cardinal part of elementary instruction, that they would ignore the great sentiment of the country which declared religion to be an integral part of education, merely because it was sentiment? He would say that it was the height of folly to refuse to listen to such a sentiment.

It had been said from the Government Benches that the proposal was quite harmless, that they were in agreement with the principle. If that were so and the Government granted that it was harmless, and seeing that it would meet the great sentiments of the vast majority of the people of the country, was there any settled reason at all why it should be refused? Were the Government under the idea that the Peers who supported the Amendment had some plot concealed in the words proposed? Personally, he believed that those who were supporting the Amendment simply desired that this great principle to which he had referred should receive real and definite affirmation at the hands of the Government, because they could not forego their belief that education must be bound up with religious instruction of some sort. Therefore they were present to support the Amendment, and for his own part he could not conceive on what ground of wisdom, policy, or statecraft it should be refused.

He could quite understand that persons who by conviction were secularists in education should withstand this Amendment. By all means let those who were in favour of secular education say so, and they would be respected as speaking their convictions. But that was not the view of the people of this country; the secular idea had been rejected in another place. Over and over again throughout the length and breadth of the country the opponents of the Act of 1902 had declared that they did not wish to destroy religious teaching. Therefore it seemed to him almost incredible and also unwise that any responsible Government should decline to pass an Amendment innocent and in harmony with the sentiments of the people such as this was. But whether the Government were pleased with this Amendment or not, the question had been raised and the House had to give an opinion. Would it look well to the religiously-minded people of this country that they should refuse to pass words that declared the one simple principle that religion was an integral part of education? If they rejected the Amendment they would stand convicted of having refused to accept that which simply declared what its supporters believed to be the earnest hungering wish of the vast majority of the people of the country.

He was jealous not only of his own earnest conviction that unless something practical was done for religious instruction in education they would have forfeited a great and noble opportunity, but also of the honour of their Lordships' House. What was the argument which had been adduced over and over again on behalf of local authorities? It was that the local authorities could be trusted because they had consciences in this matter. By what conceivable line of argument were they going to convince the people of this country that Huddersfield and Richmond had consciences in this matter, but that the House of Lords had not? They had a conscience in this matter. It was not merely because the population outside believed in religious education that he was supporting this Amendment, but because he believed in it himself with a deep-rooted conviction, so that whenever an Education Bill might be produced, from whichever side of politics it might come, if it ignored religion or stood for secularism, he would oppose it even though he stood alone. Because he was jealous that they should affirm what the people of the country expected them to affirm, because he was jealous that they should recognise that they had a conscience in this matter and that it was their duty to protect the people against the possibility of secularism, therefore he appealed to their Lordships not unwisely or hastily to reject an Amendment which was in perfect harmony with the sentiments of not merely one religious denomination but of all. It was a matter in which every religious body was interested, and all that the Amendment affirmed was not that there should be any supremacy, not that one sect or denomination should get an advantage over another, but that there should be an opportunity for religious teaching whether for the Jew or the Roman Catholic, or the Established Churchman, or the Free Churchman, in the schools of the country. The vagueness of the Resolution commended it to his mind, because it covered the width and liberal scope of that view.

*THE EARL OF CREWE pointed out that it was not a Resolution, but an Amendment, which was a very different matter.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON said he was not careful for the Amendment in particular, but he was careful for the affirmation of the principle. If the Government would give a guarantee that a Resolution affirming the principle should be brought before the House, he would be quite willing that the Amendment should be withdrawn. He was standing for the principle, not for the form, and if he received an assurance that the principle would be affirmed, whether by Resolution or by Clause he cared not, he would be content to leave the matter so far in their hands; but he stood for the honour and consistency of the Members of that House, for they were only affirming that simple faith in the living God, who in the prayers of their Lordships' House was declared to be the One by whom alone kings ruled and princes decreed justice.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY felt very strongly that the Amendment was most objectionable both in form and in substance. It had been criticised on the ground of its impracticability and vagueness, and he objected to it on the ground that it would be a rash and bad step for Parliament once more to take up that which for years they had been trying to withdraw from, namely, the control and direction of spiritual affairs. He had marked the development of the views of the most rev. Primate since the introduction of the Bill. On the Second Reading he used words which seemed to indicate a wish that there should be universal religious teaching in school hours, but when, in commenting on that speech, he (Lord Stanley) said that the words were capable of that construction, whereas probably all he desired was that if such instruction was given, it should be in school hours, the most rev. Primate nodded assent. But on Thursday last he went a step further and foreshadowed what seemed to be a desire to impose an obligation to give religious teaching. The most rev. Primate, like the right rev. Prelate who had just spoken, had treated it very much as a matter of indifference whether the proposal was carried as a Resolution in the nature of an exhortation or as an Amendment in the nature of an order. He could quite understand that right rev. Prelates, whose function was exhortation and preaching, might feel the great importance of weighty words of advice addressed from high bodies, but the churches had been in past ages and were still too apt, when they found exhortation insufficient, to fall back upon the secular arm, and what the Committee had before it on the present occasion was not a pious exhortation, but the calling in of the secular arm. On Thursday last, when speaking on the matter of religious teaching, the most rev. Primate said—

> "I can see no reason at all why such a provision, if you like rather as a demonstration than as a possibility of enforcement in all its details, should not stand in the forefront of the Bill as something which is giving effect to the repeated declarations that the Bill is not to have, and is not intended to have, a secularist character at all."

To-day the most rev. Primate had spoken of his Amendment as a flag or manifesto rather than an operative proposal. In the earlier part of his speech he had intimated that he did not desire any coercive measure, but as he warmed to his work he had gradually begun to see the possibilities of making it coercive, because although the Amendment was couched in the most deliberately vague terms, yet as the most rev. Primate had said with perfect truth, if they put it into the Code as one of the necessary conditions for qualifying for a Parliamentary grant, it would be necessary for the inspector to go into the schools to see the time-table and satisfy himself that the instruction was given in accordance with the Code. The Leader of the Opposition, who had also spoken of the principle as being very general, had used significant language to the effect that the Amendment might be taken as merely general for the moment, that it was quite vague, but that it could be followed up; it was to be a foundation which could be built upon by suitable Amendments in subsequent clauses of the Bill. Therefore, they were face to face with the first parallel of the besiegers. It was not to be a mere pious exhortation or excellent Resolution, but an operative provision. The Leader of the Opposition had not properly grappled with the point made by the President of the Council, who had pointed out with perfect justice, that if this teaching was to be given by the local education authorities in provided schools, it was clear, unless the Cowper-Temple clause were repealed, that it must be teaching in accordance with the Cowper-Temple clause. He could quite understand a person saying, accordance with the teaching of the late Dr. Hook—

> "Let the public authority be answerable only for the secular instruction, and leave the religious instruction to pious people of varying opinion to come in and teach those who desire it."

That was a tenable position, but it was not the position before the Committee. When the people of Birmingham, under the influence of Mr. Chamberlain, had secular schools, they met the wishes of various religious bodies or a combination of religious bodies by placing the schools at their disposal on a certain day in the week for the volunteers to give religious instruction, but in order to satisfy the law they were obliged to make public elementary school begin on that day only at 9.30 instead of at 9 o'clock, so that it was merely a school house put at the disposal of volunteers outside school hours. If they put the teaching within school hours it must come under the Cowper-Temple clause. Cowper-Temple teaching was extremely popular throughout the country among Church people as well as dissenters. There was a time when the bench of bishops proclaimed that they would not put up with Cowper-Temple teaching, that it was intolerable. At one time he thought that under the leadership of the Bishop of Birmingham, and especially after the sermon of the Bishop of Stepney, that bench was gradually bringing itself to the logical position, and that it would declare for impartial treatment and equality, and trust to the efforts of religious people to give religious instruction. But he supposed they saw that the current of general undenominational Protestantism was too strong for them, for now they were rallying to that general undenominational Protestantism, and they were going to enact for the first time that there should be an established religion in the schools, a religion which should be undenominational, which undoubtedly would be broadly Christian in a sense which would cover Unitarianism. It would be a big job for the House of Lords to propose to repeal the Cowper-Temple clause. They would have to do more than that. It they were going to let the inspector look at the time-table and put this into the Code they would have to repeal Clause 7, sub-section (3) of the Act of 1870, which enacted that it should be no part of the duties of an inspector to inquire into instruction on religious subjects. When they began to play with this question they would find it more serious than they thought; they would be setting up a new State Church, a church which would be undenominational, and they would involve themselves in controversy with reference to the repeal of an important section of the Act of 1870.

Several speakers had spoken as if the Amendment gave effect to the dislike of the country of secular schools. He quite agreed that there was a majority of the effective voting force of the country against secular schools, but it was a great exaggeration to suppose that there was any violent attachment to any particular system of religious teaching. Nobody could say that when the Birmingham schools were secular they were a bit less popular or less frequented by the people who sought a good education. The attitude of the State since 1870 had been one of secularity towards teaching. Mr. Gladstone, whom none would ever accuse of being wanting in definite religious earnestness or conviction, was a strong opponent of the State organisation of religion, and he considered that Dr. Hook had solved the question but that the country was not ripe to accept the solution. The other House earlier in the year was invited to order secular schools, but it refused, being willing to remain in the impartial attitude which it has been the rule of the State to adopt ever since 1870, and to leave a discretion to the local authorities as to what should be done. But it was now proposed that they should take quite another line, and order religious teaching to be given. It was easy enough for people to say which way the great voice of the country was going. He would not undertake to prophesy, but he was quite content to judge the voice of the country with regard to this Amendment by what the House of Commons would say to it if it went back to them. That he thought would be a very good index of the voice of the country, and when that result came it would be seen whether the voice of the country was as unmistakable as noble Lords opposite seemed to think.

What were the places where they had instruction either secular or so scantily religious that it might be almost considered as such? The case of Huddersfield had been repeatedly quoted, and on a previous occasion he had been able to show that according to the evidence of the police courts at Huddersfield, the great contributors to the industrial and reformatory schools were not those who came from the board schools, but from the schools where definite denominational teaching was given. Then there was the case of Wales. No one would doubt that the Welsh people as a whole were much more actively permeated by religious conviction and that religion filled a much larger space in their lives than was the case with the English working classes. Nobody could believe when they went to the manufacturing towns of England that the religious interest of the working people was not tenfold greater in Wales than in England. The members of the Commission on the Welsh Church at present sitting were amazed at the evidence showing how practically the whole adult population, whether Anglican or Nonconformist, were habitual communicants. That showed a state of mind as far removed as possible from ecclesiastical indifference or secularity, and yet it was pre-eminently in that part of the country that the people refused to have any systematic religious instruction in their schools. Such a position was no evidence of want of religious belief, but they were going to order the Welsh people to have some sort of syllabus of religious instruction and, according to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, they were laying down a groundwork upon which an edifice was subsequently to be reared.

He was a little surprised that Lord Halifax should have supported this Resolution, seeing that on Saturday last he was addressing the people from the backs of the lions in Trafalgar Square, accompanied by banners on one of which appeared the motto "Religious equality," while on another blazoned forth "No State Religion." He (Lord Stanley) was perfectly willing to march under both of those banners, and would be only too glad if Lord Halifax would march with him. If they had religious equality and no State religion they would have a state of things much healthier, much more progressive, and much more conducive to the true spirit of justice and piety, and all the good qualities which built up character, than the state of things which now existed with the present alliance of the spiritual and the secular. He quite agreed that if they came to the solution of removing from the municipal authorities the power of drawing up schemes of theology, many of which erred greatly on the side of excess and not of defect, and if they gave a reasonable hour within such time that the children would naturally be in the schools, and invited voluntary teachers who believed in religion to give the instruction, that would be a satisfactory solution; but any proposal which simply hinted at what should be done, without its proposers having the courage to do it, would never be operative. Possibly as the Committee went on the proposal would be made operative, but at present it was merely an expression of hope.

In 1886–87 he sat under Lord Cross on a Commission dealing with this question, and when the Report was being considered it was urged by some that it would be well to insert a provision that the State should call upon all public elementary schools to include religious instruction.

He believed that for a moment there was an Amendment to that effect put into the Report, but on reflection it was seen how impolitic and useless it would be for the State to thrust upon a community like Birmingham, which was in favour of secular schools, obligations which the State could not effectively enforce. If they tried to force upon people that which they were not willing to do, that thing would become mechanical and artificial. To some religious instruction was different from Bible instruction. If a school determined that the Bible should be read, but that the teacher should not be permitted to draw theological lessons from it, leaving it to tell its own story, would that satisfy the Resolution or would the grant be withdrawn? He wished to put in a *caveat* against the plea of the right rev. Prelate who seemed to think that, because he was firmly convinced of the righteousness and propriety of some public action, it was quite right that he should call upon the State to enforce that action. In the time of the Stuarts that was what led to the people being fined for not going to church on Sunday. But we had outgrown that idea, but the right rev. Prelate apparently still thought it right.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON said he really did not think it was possible that his words could be so misconceived. The noble Lord desired to draw an analogy between the principle he had advocated and the power to compel people to go to church on Sunday. He had simply asked for an opportunity of religious teaching on behalf of those who desired it.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said the right rev. Prelate desired to coerce the local authority. Of course two centuries had passed since the legislation to which he referred, and the right rev. Prelate had had to move with the age. No doubt the form of coercion which he proposed to apply was much milder than the Caroline Parliaments applied, but the spirit was the same.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON: I protest, my Lord.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said he could see the same spirit, perfectly well-meaning but perfectly mistaken, on the part of those whom he might call the secular fanatics or enthusiasts of the day. A great many people thought it so essential that temperance should be taught that the local authorities had ordered definite lessons in temperance to be given. It was their confidence in their good intentions which make people so regardless of the border line between right and wrong limits, and it was because of that he especially regretted this Amendment. As far as the future went it would probably spread the cause of which he was in favour. But if it was carried and became the law of the land, he was sure it would be resented. Some noble Lords had spoken of the people being with them, but they seemed to forget that a great body of Nonconformists, who certainly had not been indifferent to religious considerations, felt so strongly the impropriety of the State's meddling with religious teaching that down to 1870 they would never accept any Parliamentary grants for their schools. Dr. Dale of Birmingham, who was not wanting in religious conviction, was one of the leaders of the day. By trying to drag the State into this alliance with the Church, they would make a great mistake, and would hasten the day of general disestablishment and probably of secular education.

*LORD AMPTHILL said there was an aspect of the question which had not yet been touched upon, and to which he desired to invite their Lordships' serious attention. Had their Lordships considered whether it was appropriate to introduce a declaration of this principle, on which it was evident they were all agreed, into this particular clause? Were there no other clauses in the Bill to which it could be applied? Noble Lords and right rev. Prelates had spoken as though their chance of asserting this principle of religious instruction began and ended with Clause 1. He could not hope to emulate the eloquence of some noble Lords in endeavouring to explain that which seemed to him to be a simple matter of business and ordinary procedure, but he hoped their Lordships would not be led away by impassioned exhortations on the one side or the other.

In this question there should be clear thinking, and it seemed to him that the Amendment was singularly inappropriate in this particular clause, and that there were better opportunities in the Bill for asserting as noble Lords so passionately desired to assert their honour, their conscience, and their sincerity. He had a particular reason for holding this view, as he himself had put down an Amendment to the first clause, but some friends of his had pointed out the disadvantage of inserting it in that particular place. On that account he was now endeavouring to explain to their Lordships why it was unnecessary, inexpedient, and unwise to introduce the principle they sought to affirm into the first clause.

What was the first clause? It had been explained over and over again. It declared the main principle of the Bill. And what was that principle? It was a financial principle. The clause declared that no school should be supported out of public funds unless it was subject to popular control. Why should they mix up a religious principle with a financial principle? Why not give the honour of a separate place in the Bill to what the most rev. Primate had rightly called a large general principle, or at any rate why should they not assert it in other parts of the Bill in such a manner that it could be defined as to quality and quantity, and thus do away with that vagueness which had been so properly objected to by the Lord President of the Council?

He believed that noble Lords, in putting down Amendments to this first clause, had been unconsciously actuated by the example of the other House. But there were excellent and forcible reasons for moving Amendments to the first clause there. The Opposition and the country had not fully understood the intentions of the Government, and the object of the Amendments was to elicit a full declaration of principle. But no such reason existed at the present time. The intentions of the Government were fully known, and their Lordships had had the immense advantage, which was not enjoyed by Members of the other House when they debated the Bill, of having been able to watch, during the recess, the full development of public opinion on this matter.

The first clause asserted the principle of popular control. He took it that that principle was no longer in controversy. On the Opposition side of the House there were many who believed that it had already been asserted by the Act of 1902. Then why not assert it at once and without seeming qualification? Why should they run the risk of provoking further misunderstanding in the country? Why should they not say at once to the country that they accepted unreservedly what was undoubtedly the mandate at the last general election—that where there was public expenditure there should be public control? He could not see that in doing so they would in any way prejudice their power or their right to amend other clauses in the Bill, and to assert in the fullest and most definite manner possible their view that the education of the country should be religious—that was to say, that religious instruction should form an essential part of the national education. He exhorted their Lordships to think well over this practical side of the question, and to consider whether they would be acting wisely in inserting this Amendment in the first clause. Since they were all agreed on the principle that education must necessarily include religious instruction, where would be the difficulty of asserting and defining that principle in other parts of the Bill?

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON was anxious to state his reasons for supporting the first clause of the Bill as it stood. He believed they were present that night owing to the fact that His Majesty's Government were returned to power at the general election with a mandate, or whatever term might be used, to introduce amongst their very earliest measures an Education Bill, the first principle of which should be that all elementary schools should be under public control. It was a complement, or a necessary consequence, of the unfortunate Act of 1902. He said unfortunate, because he felt at the time, and he felt still, as a Churchman that that Bill did an irremediable harm to the Church schools, and he was absolutely certain that it would be necessary in good time—and the time had come more quickly than he had expected—that there should be another Bill to sweep away the injustice inflicted by the measure of 1902.

As a matter of fact, the first question brought before the country at the last general election was the education question. He spoke from experience, having taken part in any number of meetings, and that was the question on which he always spoke. [Cries of "Privilege!"] Of course he meant before the writs were issued, but he would be glad when the time came when their Lordships would be able to take part in elections after the issue of the writs. But this discussion of the education question was not a matter of the few weeks preceding the general election. Ever since the passing of the Act of 1902 every Liberal meeting which he had attended, and every Liberal speaker to whom he had listened, had always been concerned with this question of education. A great fuss had been made about certain other questions which might have been alluded to, although never by him personally; but education was the one dominant question which carried the people with it and decided the general election. The principal factor in those discussions was whether there should be complete public control over the nation's schools, and His Majesty's Government had brought forward the Bill to which they were pledged. If they had not put in the forefront of that measure the principle of popular control, he would have been standing up on the present occasion declaring that they had not fulfilled the pledges they had given to the country, and were not doing what their supporters had expected of them. Therefore he should support His Majesty's Government in the first clause as it stood.

With regard to the Amendment, he was one of those who considered that no education of the children could be successful or satisfactory unless it was founded upon the teaching of the Christian religion. He was ready to fight against secularism, and to contend, as far as he could, against the movement in favour of all State teaching being only secular, and of all allusions to Christianity or to morality founded upon Christianity being excluded from the schools. But having made that admission, he could not support the Amendment under discussion. It would be perfectly possible to introduce into an Education Bill a clause to enforce, he would not call it religious instruction, but Biblical instruction in the schools. He had the honour to move the Address to His Majesty at the beginning of the session, and in his remarks on that occasion, not knowing what His Majesty's Government were going to do, he expressed the opinion that there might be an Education Bill containing the principle of Biblical instruction in the schools. He was still of the same view. There were three classes of opinion with regard to religious education. There was in the first place the logical class, the secularists. Their contention was absolutely logical. The State must be undenominational and neutral, and their contention was that anything for which the State paid should also be undenominational and neutral. That was a logical argument, but at the same time he was hostile to it, and ready to fight against it. Then there were those who were in favour of denominational, of definite, religious teaching, and after all, whatever might be said as regarded the present Amendment, there was no one who had spoken in favour of religious education, particularly among the right rev. Prelates, who had not in his heart, and naturally so, a wish for denominational and definite religious teaching. The third class were those who considered it to be necessary to have Biblical or undenominational teaching in the schools. He belonged to that class. It seemed to him that they were at the beginning of a fight betwixt secularism and religion, and unless the two classes who represented religious teaching, denominational and undenominational, joined together and fought the other class, the result was absolutely certain—the secularists would win the battle. Therefore, at the beginning of the discussions on the Bill, he desired to express the view that unless they came to terms, and agreed among themselves, they would lose the fight, with the result—possibly the logical result—that no religious teaching whatever would be given in the schools during school hours. If they could agree that there should be Biblical instruction, he believed the vast majority of the people of the country would support them; but if they added to the first clause a provision that there must be religious instruction, without any definition as to what that religious instruction should be, he was perfectly certain that the strife between the denominationalists and the undenominationalists would only be accentuated, and would do irremediable harm to the cause of religious education.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK said they had all listened to the speech of the noble Marquess with the respect which his sincerity and earnestness commanded, and it was certainly not with any want of respect that he declared that even upon the principles of the noble Marquess himself he would draw the opposite conclusion. He would not detain their Lordships with any discussion of the principle of popular control, or with any dispute as to that principle. There was a form in which he would be quite ready to accept it. But surely the noble Lord would not wonder if they were a little anxious at the outset of this new departure in our educational system, to know clearly what was going to be the position of religious teaching under it. All would agree with the importance of the view taken by the noble Marquess when he pleaded with the forces of religion not to be divided, and, by conflicting one with another, give what to them was the enemy the advantage. But it was a strange moment to urge that plea, when the Amendment before the Committee offered in a singular degree to those who had religious instruction at heart an opportunity for united action.

There was one element in public opinion which ran the risk of not being represented in their Lordships' House. They had heard a great deal of religion, and a great deal about religious opposition. People were very critical in that respect, saying, with some appearance of fairness, that religion was only the cause of strife. But their Lordships knew quite well that along with those things which divided religious men, there was a great force which united them, and that suggested the question whether in these debates, in the course of which different forms of religion would be debated, and various opposing views pressed, they ought not to avail themselves of an opportunity of this kind for bringing out not a fictitious unity but a real unity. The noble Lord opposite (Lord Ampthill) had suggested that they might have found a better opportunity for affirming this principle. Even though that might be true in the abstract, he was doubtful about it, because when they came to details it would be much more difficult to do a thing of this kind. But the great issue was now before the Committee, and he suggested to the noble Lord that he should not allow a mere question of order to deprive the supporters of the Amendment of his co-operation.

As to the propriety of this affirmation of principle, he welcomed the recent utterance of prominent Nonconformists, among whom were several personal friends of his own. While they could not help noticing certain omissions from the list of signatures, while they could see whom it did not represent as well as whom it did, they could not help recognising that the names carried with them a great force; and while the Legislature of a great country might certainly be too bold, or ill-guided, in its expression of convictions for the sake of expressing them, it might also err on the other side by withholding an expression of its opinion when that opinion, embodied in a law, would have a great effect upon the opinion and the action of the country. He therefore ventured very respectfully to ask His Majesty's Government whether the principle to which they were very much in the habit of appealing might really be applied here. The Government had often declared that they had a mandate upon this matter and upon that. They might be right but had they no mandate from the religious sense of the country to maintain religion in the schools? He believed they had, and if that were so, he hoped the Committee, by its decision on this Amendment would discharge that mandate. Lord Ampthill had stated that it was very essential to have clear thinking on this matter. That was important, because the issue now before the Committee was a tangled issue—more tangled than some speakers had admitted. It was very important that they should not confuse opinion out of doors, or confuse even their own minds, upon the matter. Lord Stanley of Alderley, with his dexterity as a debater, had tried to pin the supporters of this Amendment to something which they had distinctly said they did not mean, and possibly one or two *obiter dicta* on the part of various speakers had given him a little assistance. Their view was that it was very desirable that they should make a declaration which would bring together the forces of religious opinion which, on other grounds and in other places, might act independently. It should not, however, be inferred from that that they were in any way pledging themselves to united action in giving effect to that declaration. Such united action would be impossible, and, from their point of view, undesirable.

The most important issue in the mind of the country was between secularism and that treatment of religion which would give the fullest effect to the varieties of different men's consciences. He, and others sitting on the Episcopal Benches, would not vote for this declaration if they thought that they were thereby committing themselves to compulsory undenominationalism or compulsory Cowper-Temple teaching. They were clear in their thinking that if they passed this Amendment there would be the largest discretion on the part of the local authorities as to the way in which it should be given effect to. For example, some local authorities might perfectly well say: "We do not consider ourselves competent to give religion, or to dictate religion, or to draw up a syllabus; but the law requires that there should be religion in the schools, and therefore we will assign a time when it is to be given and open the doors to those who are ready to come in and teach it." He hoped they would always say that the teachers, if they conscientiously desired to do so, might aid in the work. Would anyone say that they had not then discharged the duty which Parliament had laid upon them? Or would anyone say that it was a new form of State religion?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: In order to do that it would be necessary to repeal the Cowper-Temple clause; it could not be done under this Amendment.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK said that that was not a conclusion which would drive him to despair. It was part of his conviction in this matter that they were moving in that direction—a direction quite as much in the sense of liberty as that negative form of liberty which Lord Stanley of Alderley seemed to desire. He desired to make it quite clear that they were not committing themselves to any compulsory method for giving effect to this declaration, and that they believed it would be perfectly possible to allow the most liberal and various ways of interpreting it, in all of which they would rejoice, although many of them might not accord with their own personal convictions, because in that way they would get the maximum effect of the religious sense and the religious life of the nation.

It had been said that most of those for whom he spoke in their hearts desired denominational teaching. That might be so, but they were perfectly aware that there were a large number of persons who might be called undenominationalists, who desired undenominationalism, or there might be a large residuum of children whom the denominations would not succeed in providing for; and he himself would be prepared that they should have undenominationalism for those as one of the alternatives. Another way in which effect might be given to this Resolution in many places would, he believed, be that the local authority would say: "We have got to do this; we cannot do it ourselves; therefore we will see whether the religious people will not help us." And he believed that in certain places there would be what might be called an inter-denominational solution, under which men who were not altogether of one mind would be brought together to settle upon a common form which could be given along with more special facilities to those children for whom something of the kind was desired. He believed that even the strictest of the denominational schools would be ready to welcome something of that kind.

EARL RUSSELL said it was only fair that he should preface his observations by saying that personally he was in favour of the secular solution of the question. To his mind, the association of Church and State had always been harmful both to the Church and to the the State, and he would regret to see that association extended. He recognised perfectly clearly, however, that that was not the general sense of the country. The general feeling seemed to be in favour of some sort of religious instruction being given in the schools in which elementary education was carried on, and His Majesty's Government, in framing a workable measure, had had to bear that in mind.

He desired to direct attention to the actual words of the Amendment, and to the speeches by which the Amendment had been supported. It would be seen that the speeches of the supporters of the Amendment had themselves, to a large extent, provided the best answer to it. The noble Viscount opposite (Lord Halifax) had stated that the Amendment was simplicity itself—that anyone could understand it—that it simply provided that religion should be combined with education. That entirely depended on what was meant by religion. Religion, to the mind of the noble Viscount, might convey something very different from what it would to many others in the House, and still more to the minds of others outside who had to do with elementary schools. The most rev. Primate had said that he wished the Amendment to be in the forefront of the Bill as a declaration. If it were a bare Resolution, an expression of opinion, a mere declaration that this House thought that some kind of religious instruction might conveniently be given in elementary schools, it would do no harm at all; it would interfere with nothing. But it was desired to put it into an Act of Parliament as a provision of the statute, and indeed as a condition, without which a school should not be an elementary school within the meaning of the Act. That was rather a different thing from a declaration, as it amounted to saying that a school had to have this religious instruction before it could be considered an elementary school. Parliament, in legislating, was hardly entitled to put a bald statement of that sort into an Act of Parliament without intimating to the authorities who had to carry out the instruction what was intended by it. That difficulty was fully recognised by the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, because he had stated that the Amendment was merely a foundation upon which a superstructure was to be reared. Was it not fair and reasonable that their Lordships, before being asked to proceed to divide on the Amendment, should have some indication from noble Lords opposite, either by Amendments on the Paper, or by speeches in the House, as to what that superstructure was to be—as to the kind of religious instruction which was to be imposed willy-nilly by the authority of Parliament upon the elementary schools?

Apparently the catch-words of religious equality and religious liberty were used by which-ever Party wished for the moment to promote its views, without strict regard to the meaning of the words. Freedom in religion and equality in religion meant also freedom to have no religion at all. What was to be the condition of schools in Birmingham, or in a secularist centre like Leicester, where perhaps four-fifths of the parents objected to any kind of religion in the schools? If there was to be a four-fifths clause, and facilities were to be given them for denominational instruction, why was not that to apply to cases where four-fifths of the parents desired no religious instruction at all?

He had listened with the greatest care to the speech of the most rev. Primate, in the hope of extracting exactly what the practical outcome of the Amendment was to be, but he had not succeeded in doing so. He perfectly understood that the most rev. Primate and others who had spoken from those Benches were perfectly earnest and sincere in the matter; they had a very strong feeling on religious instruction, and they knew perfectly well what they meant by saying that religious instruction should be associated with education in elementary schools. But he was not so sure that any feeling quite so single-minded had animated noble Lords opposite in their support of the Amendment. He was not sure that the Amendment had not been proposed and supported by the official Opposition largely with the intention of going to the country afterwards and saying at meetings, and on platforms, and in other places, that His Majesty's Government had distinctly repudiated religion. He was not at all sure that that was not one of the objects with which this Amendment had been supported by noble Lords opposite. He thought, however, that the ground had been somewhat cut away from under their feet by the speech of the noble Marquess (the Marquess of Northampton) who had stated distinctly that he was opposed to the secularist programme, and had appealed to the forces of religion to unite. He feared that if this Amendment had not been fully discussed the statement might be made, and probably still would be made, that all that the Opposition had asked for was religious instruction, and that His Majesty's Government had refused it, because they were against religion and against religious instruction. It was perfectly obvious, however, that that was not the fact.

This Amendment presumably was intended to mean something, and the Committee was entitled to know what it meant, beyond a mere so-called pious expression of opinion. What was to be the kind of religious instruction; how was it to be worked? He understood when the Bill was discussed in another place that there was a great outcry throughout the country about a State religion. It was said that a new State religion was being set up—an undenominational State religion. That was not strictly accurate. But if this Amendment was carried, and interpreted to mean undenominational religious teaching, then indeed their Lordships would have imposed upon schools, for the first time, a State religion—a religion which some official must inspect and report upon—because unless the elementary schools gave this religious instruction they were not to be considered as elementary schools, and could not be so classed for the purposes of attendance, of grant, and so on.

The noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition, who had quoted from a speech of the Minister for Education, must have felt that that extract had carried him a little further than he wished, because it ended by saying that the hope of His Majesty's Government was that the ordinary undenominational religious teaching which had existed in elementary schools should be continued. Was that what the noble Marquess meant when he supported this Amendment? If so, there was not much difference of opinion as to what was desired in practice between him and noble Lords behind the Government. But the noble Marquess must not quote the Minister for Education unless he was prepared to support the whole of what that right hon. Gentleman had stated. Mr. Birrell had never pledged himself to support compulsory religious education of varying characters, and he would be much interested to see, if their Lordships inserted this Amendment, how it was developed later on. If the Amendment was carried, he thought their Lordships would find some little difficulty in considering what to do with it; it would prove a rather troublesome subject to deal with when they had to define what they meant by the vague expressions contained in the Amendment. Their Lordships, who were now so willing to vote for a mere sentiment, a mere idea, a mere declaration, would find that they had landed themselves in a position of considerable embarrassment when they came to the actual practical details. It could not be too clearly stated that the Amendment as it stood practically meant nothing at all, and that His Majesty's Government, in opposing it, were clearly opposing it on purely administrative grounds.

The Marquess of SALISBURY said there was a singularly refreshing character about the speech of the noble Lord who had just spoken, inasmuch as he was the only one who had had the courage to announce that he was in favour of the secular solution. All the other noble Lords who had declared their intention of voting against the Amendment had been profuse in their assurances that they desired that some religious instruction should be given.

*The Earl of CREWE: I devoted the greater part of my speech to explaining that I was not prepared to support the imposition of compulsory religious teaching on local authorities, which is all that this Amendment does.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY did not quite admit the description just given of the Amendment, but he would deal with it later on. The great majority of the Committee agreed that religion ought to form a part of elementary education, and that was really all that this Amendment actually affirmed. It said that during a portion of every day the schools should be available for religious instruction. It said nothing more than that, and it said nothing less. Lord Ampthill had complained of the place at which the discussion had been raised. But surely the first clause was the natural and obvious place, inasmuch as it described the conditions which were to attach henceforth to every public elementary school.

LORD FITZMAURICE thought the statement of the noble Marquess was somewhat inconsistent with what had been stated a moment ago. From the words he had just spoken it appeared that the Amendment was not a mere declaration, but a stern condition to be attached to all schools.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said the clause was a description of the character which should attach to every public elementary school in the country, and the supporters of the Amendment held the view that the description was not complete, but that there was another condition which should be applied—namely, that some opportunity should be given for religious instruction, and therefore they desired to place it in Clause 1, because that was the only clause applying universally to every public elementary school. The Amendment did not in any way interfere with the principle of public control. The words of the clause which provided that every school should be subject to public control remained unamended and untouched.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON said he had never suggested that it did; what he said was that he supported the clause as it stood, because it dealt solely with the question of public control.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said he accepted at once the noble Lord's statement; he wished merely to say that the Amendment did not interfere in any way with the principle of public control. Neither did it impose religion upon anybody. The noble Earl who had just spoken seemed to think that they were imposing religion upon those who might be unwilling to receive it. But every parent was entitled to withdraw his child from religious instruction, and he would still have that privilege, if it was a privilege. Then Lord Stanley of Alderley had stated that they were trying to re-establish the religious tyranny of the Stuarts.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: I did not say that.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: No, he did not quite say that, I admit.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: I said you were 250 years the wiser.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: He said at any rate that we were reverting to that condition of things—that we were moving in that direction.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: Keeping up the traditions.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said he did not mind the precise form of words, but the noble Lord seemed to think that it was an exercise of great religious tyranny that they should enable every poor parent to have religion taught to his child if he wished, and that imposing a condition upon a public authority was the same thing as tyrannising over the conscience of an individual. It was the most prodigious misuse of language, if he might say so with all respect, of which anyone could be guilty. In those days King and Parliament did impose their religious views upon the individual, and in these days local authorities were in the habit, some of them, of imposing their religious views on individuals; and the supporters of this Amendment desired to stop that.

They desired that every individual should not be imposed upon in the matter of religion by the local authority, and it was with that intention that they asked the Committee to accept this Amendment. Neither were they going to establish Cowper-Templeism. The right rev. Prelate had so completely demolished that assertion that it was unnecessary for him to deal with it further. There was no reason at all why the religion given in these schools should necessarily be Cowper-Temple religion. All that the clause said was that an opportunity should be given for religious instruction.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: In school hours.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY did not know whether the noble Lord thought it was a law of the Medes and Persians, which could not be altered, that no religion could be given in school hours except Cowper-Temple religion.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: You must alter the law to do it.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said they were now engaged in altering the law; this Bill did nothing else. Then the noble Lord had appealed to the feeling of the country, saying that it was to be interpreted by the views of the majority of the House of Commons. He personally desired to speak with every proper regard for the views of the majority of the House of Commons, but he thought it was really straining language to say that this detail of the education question was submitted to the country at the last general election. The old theory of the mandate, with which they were so familiar, had been appealed to by the Marquess of Northampton.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON: As regards Clause 1 as it stands.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I have not yet said what the noble Marquess stated.

THE MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON: No; I thought it as well to put you right before you made any mistake.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Thank you. As a matter of fact, the country appeared to have decided a good many things, and to have given a great number of different mandates; but he ventured to say that it did not give any mandate to the Government to say that no opportunity was to be given in any school district for any child to receive the religious instruction which its parents desired. If the movement of public opinion in the country, since the introduction of the Bill, were studied, he believed that a very different conclusion would be come to from that held by the noble Marquess. No one could have watched the deep and profound feeling which had been excited by the Bill without being convinced that they were in the presence of a deep hostility to many parts of the measure. Petitions were somewhat looked down upon, and undoubtedly in certain cases they were open to criticism; but the figures in this case were so enormous as to be impressive. He believed that there were petitions containing upwards of 750,000 signatures against this Bill. That was a very large figure indeed, especially when it was remembered that it had been calculated that at one of the hardest fought contested elections of recent years not more than 250,000 persons attended public meetings, and that was when the country was supposed to be seething with excitement. And how many signatures had there been in its favour? He believed that to the petitions presented in favour of the Bill in another place there were in all not more than 179 signatures. That was the difference between the support in the county which the Bill had received and the support which had been given to its opponents. He did not envy the feelings of any Member of Parliament who went down to his constituency and said—

> "I have supported the Government on the Education Bill, in voting against a proposal that every poor child should have an opportunity of learning religion."

He did not believe that such a course of action would be popular in any part of the country, and, as far as those for whom he spoke were concerned, they would vote most confidently, and without the slightest feeling of dismay, in favour of the Amendment before the Committee.

*LORD BURGHCLERE said that as like their Lordships he had to give a responsible vote on this occasion, he desired to be quite certain as to what they were about to vote on, because the various speeches of the supporters of the Amendment had enabled them to form only a very hazy conception of the reasons in favour of the Amendment. The speech of the noble Marquess to which they had just listened did not seem to be on all fours with the speech of his Leader, and he would like to know whether the noble Marquess spoke for the official Opposition and the whole of his Party. The noble Marquess seemed to interpret the Amendment as giving a right of free entry to all the Cowper-Temple schools set up by the Act of 1870. The noble Marquess had stated that he was not in favour of Cowper-Templeism, but of certain hours being set aside for religious education in order that the form of religion—no doubt a denominational form—might be taught during that period. That was an entire upsetting of the Act of 1870, and was not, as far as he understood, borne out by the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. It was said by the supporters of the Amendment that they did not desire to compel the local authorities, or the children, in regard to religious instruction, inasmuch as there was a conscience clause. No doubt there was a real conscience clause in Clause 7 of the Bill before the House—he was not saying whether or not he supported it—which permitted parents to withdraw their children altogether from religious instruction in the schools. But he gathered that that clause would certainly be opposed by those who supported the views of the noble Marquess. [Cries of "No!"] He certainly understood that it was opposed in the other House, and he would watch the debates with interest when that portion of the Bill was reached by their Lordships. As far as the experience of rural districts went, the existing conscience clause under the Act of 1870 had not been an unlimited success. The reason it had not been put into force in many instances was perfectly clear. In a village with fifty or sixty children, if the parents withdrew their children from religious instruction they would be pointed at in the village, and stigmatised as schismatics, or agnostics, or have some such other name applied to them as the rural mind found it very difficult to understand, and still more difficult to endure. The conscience clause of 1870 as it stood did not really prevent this provision from being a compulsory provision.

The Amendment would impose for the first time upon the people of this country a public test of their religious faith, and in his opinion the present was a very inopportune time to do so. It might have been opportune to promote a feeling for religious education some time ago, but since the Act of 1870 there had been an increased tendency in that direction. After 1870 the Birmingham League, and other similar associations, set their faces against religious instruction in the schools. Since that time many more schools had adopted religious instruction, and the vote in the other House showed that there was a strong feeling at present against secularism. If now for the first time they attempted to force the people of the country to accept religious instruction whether they wished it or not, they would probably hinder the very movement which the great majority of them desired to promote and largely stimulate the secular movement. He was as much in favour as right rev Prelates of having religious instruction in the various schools, but he thought it would be very inopportune, and probably check the religious tendency he had pointed out, if they brought compulsion to bear upon the people and forced them to have religious instruction in the schools. A man's conscience was a very tender plant, which they should not put into a forcing house. If they did, they would subject it to an atmosphere which, while it might be exciting, would possibly be fatal to its future growth.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, you have intimated very clearly that you are anxious to bring this discussion to a close, but on behalf of His Majesty's Government it is my duty to make some observations upon this question. The question may be treated from two points of view, the theoretical or sentimental and the practical. The greater part of the discussion to which you have listened has turned upon what I may call the sentimental point of view, which, I may frankly admit, makes a strong appeal to me. But, my Lords, we are not discussing an abstract resolution. Many of those who have spoken, the most rev. Primate amongst them, have talked about this proposal as if it were a declaration. The most rev. Primate calls it, I think, a flag, and the Bishop of Ripon seemed to care very little how it was worded provided the declaration was made. If we were in a public meeting, moving resolutions representing our special opinions, no course could be more natural, but we are at the present moment engaged in legislation, and the question to which I wish to draw your Lordships' attention is how you are going to carry out the vague proposals of this Amendment.

The Amendment proposes to add a third condition to Clause 1, namely, that some portion of school hours of every day shall be set apart for the purposes of religious instruction. No words can by any possibility be more vague. You do not define what you mean by religious instruction. We have been told particularly that you do not mean Cowper-Temple instruction: therefore you must mean something else, but you do not tell us what it is. I should be very glad to have some clear explanation on that point. The fact is that unless you repeal the Cowper-Temple clause by this Bill, these council schools must inevitably if they give religious instruction, give it under Cowper-Temple conditions under the Act of 1870, which you do not propose to touch. Unless you can explain away that fact you are simply saying that there must be everywhere Cowper-Temple instruction.

But it seems to meal most trifling with this serious subject to put into an Act of Parliament words so vague as these. How are you going to enforce your clause? I gather from many of the speeches which have been made to-night that after all you do not mean to enforce it, that it is meant merely as a declaration or a flag. Is that wise, or reasonable, or sound legislation? But if you mean to enforce this clause you mean that if a local body refuses to act upon this provision you will proceed against it in a Court of law by *mandamus*. Any ratepayer, I suppose, could proceed by that method. Then you will leave it to a Court of law to decide what is religion instruction. This is not a question like the Cowper-Temple clause. The Cowper-Temple clause is a negative clause; it tells you what you are not to do; it does not tell you what you are to do. This is a positive clause, and I venture to say with all respect that what the Courts will have to decide is, what is religious instruction? Being a great advocate of religious instruction and earnestly desiring that it should be extended as widely as possible, I do not wish to see it made the subject of a contest in Courts of law. That is not what we want. You will not obtain any advantages for religion or for religious instruction out of any provision of that kind. There are not many local bodies who do not give some kind of religious instruction—there are a few, but not many. But what is going to be done in a case like that of Huddersfield? There is certain instruction given there which has the outward appearance, at all events, of being religious. Are you to go to a Court of law and ask them to say whether that is religious instruction or not? I have the highest respect for Courts of law and the deepest reverence and alarm for lawyers, but at the same time, in the interests of religious instruction, I do not desire that questions of that kind should be dealt with in that way. It is not wise to insert in a definite Act of Parliament something which you have made as indefinite as you possibly can, something out of which you have taken even that which was definite in the original form of notice, and which has now been reduced to something which after all we are told is to be a mere declaration. You will do no good by making a declaration of that kind. You will not convince the people of this country who are determined to have religious instruction in the schools if you adopt something which they will feel ought not to be enforced before a Court of law, but is merely set there as an abstract resolution which your Lordships on this occasion have seen fit to pass.

But the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition used language which was somewhat alarming. He seemed to speak of this Amendment as if it was to be the basis or foundation of something else. What is to be built on this foundation? What is the superstructure that you are going to erect upon it? You ask us to pass this vague resolution, committing you to nothing, and impossible, as I believe, to enforce, and at the same time with very great honesty you tell us that it is vague now, but that before the Bill leaves this House you intend to make it anything but vague. I cannot think that that is a wise course, or that it will really lead to respect for or the extension of religious instruction. My noble friend the Lord President said that it would stir up the advocates of secular education to strong and eager opposition. I believe that the only people likely to gain much from the proceedings before the Courts of law which would arise under this clause, if it were ever enforced, would be the secularists, and that you will not by this step really produce any effect beyond a vague declaration of opinion in your Lordship's House which is shared in its main sentiment, not only by those who will support the Amendment, but by those who are determined to oppose it.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY desired to protest as emphatically as he could against the statement that this was a vague resolution. It seemed to him that if the noble Lord ever addressed his countrymen upon the subject and was asked whether he understood the difference between a religious education and a secular education, he would have some difficulty in saying that he did not understand the distinction. Those who said that one object of this Amendment was to raise that question before the country were quite right. That was one of the objects and he believed it was one of the questions upon which the country would give no uncertain answer. They intended that what Parliament was about to enact should be subject to the condition that no child in the country should be made compulsorily to go to school unless an opportunity was given to it to have religious education. He thought that was a very simple proposition. Why could they not force compliance with that condition? The penalty was that if a school did not do that which Parliament had insisted upon its doing, and made a condition of its receiving public control and public rates, it should not receive them. Was there any difficulty in enforcing that? The noble Lord said it was difficult to say what was and what was not religious education. He should have thought there was not much difficulty about it; he thought the man in the street would understand it perfectly well. He quite agreed that it might be difficult to define a particular form of religion, but this Amendment avoided anything of the sort. It did not enforce the teaching of anything, but it did enforce the granting of the opportunity of being taught. His noble friend the Lord Chancellor spoke of the difficulty of enforcing this by reason of the vagueness of the language. But it was not unknown to the law to leave things to the ordinary common sense of mankind. If a contract was made to do something, and no particular form or time was put in, the law said it must be done in a reasonable way and in a reasonable time. Accordingly, if one of these local authorities refused to do that which the Legislature had asserted should be done, the default was manifest, and the penalties followed as a matter of course; they would not receive the support of the State. For his part, he was quite content to leave the proposition to the man in the street, and he hoped the division about to be taken would be in favour of a form of education which should give, at all events, an opportunity for religious teaching.

On Question, "That these words be there added," their Lordships divided:—Contents, 256; Not-contents, 56.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)

Devonshire, D.
Grafton, D.
Leeds, D.

Marlborough, D.
Newcastle, D.
Portland, D.

Richmond and Gordon, D.
Rutland, D.
Somerset, D.
Sutherland, D.
Wellington, D.

Abergavenny, M.
Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Bristol, M.
Bute, M.
Camden, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Linlithgow, M.
Normanby, M.
Salisbury, M.
Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Abingdon, E.
Albemarle, E.
Amherst, E.
Ashburnham, E.
Bandon, E.
Bathurst, E.
Bradford, E.
Brownlow, E.
Cadogan, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carnwath, E.
Cathcart, E.
Cawdor, E.
Chichester, E.
Clarendon, E.
Coventry, E.
Dartmouth, E.
Darnley, E.
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Drogheda, E.
Egerton, E.
Eldon, E.
Essex, E.
Feversham, E.
Fitzwilliam, E.
Fortescue, E.
Gainsborough, E.
Guilford, E.
Haddington, E.
Halsbury, E.
Huntingdon, E.
Jersey, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Lichfield, E.
Lindsey, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Lytton, E.
Mar, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Mount Edgecumbe, E.
Nelson, E.
Northbrook, E.
Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.

Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
Plymouth, E.
Powis, E.
Radnor, E.
Romney, E.
Rosse, E.
Rosslyn, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Scarborough, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Westmoreland, E.
Wharncliffe, E.
Wicklow, E.
Winchelsea and Nottingham, E.
Yarborough, E.

Bridport, V.
Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Cobham, V.
Colville of Culross, V.
Cross, V.
Falkland, V.
Falmouth, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Iveagh, V.
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Portman, V.
Ridley, V.

Bangor, L. Bp.
Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Birmingham, L. Bp.
Bristol, L. Bp.
Chester, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Hereford, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. Bp.
Peterborough, L. Bp.
Ripon, L. Bp.
St. Albans, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Abinger, L.
Addington, L.
Alington, L.
Allerton, L.
Alverstone, L.
Annaly, L.
Armstrong, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Atkinson, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.

Barrymore, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Biddulph, L.
Blythswood, L.
Bolton, L.
Braybrooke, L.
Braye, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burton, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
De Mauley, L.
de Ros, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunleath, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Emly, L.
Estcourt, L.
Faber, L.
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Hare, L. (*E. Listowel.*)
Harlech, L.
Harris, L.
Hatherton, L.
Heneage, L.
Herries, L.
Hindlip, L.
Hothfield, L.
Hylton, L.
Kenlis, L. (*M. Headfort.*)
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kesteven, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Knaresborough, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leigh, L
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Llangattock, L.
Lovat, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners, L.
Masham, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Mendip, L. (*V. Clifden.*)
Methuen, L.
Middleton, L.
Moncrieff, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Mostyn, L.

Mowbray, L.
Muncaster, L.
Napier, L.
North, L.
Northbourne, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ormathwaite, L.
Ormonde, L. (*M. Ormonde.*)
Oxenfoord, L. (*E. Stair.*)
Poltimore, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Ramsay, L. (*E. Dalhousie.*)
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Rathmore, L.
Ravensworth, L.
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosmead, L.
Rothschild, L.
St. Oswald, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sanderson, L.
Sandys, L.
Seaton, L.
Sherborne, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Southampton, L.
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Stratheden and Campbell, L
Tennyson, L.
Teynham, L.
Trevor, L.
Vivian, L.
Waleran, L.
Walsingham, L.
Wenlock, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

## NOT-CONTENTS.

Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)
Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)

Manchester, D.

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Craven, E.
De La Warr, E.
Durham, E.
Granville, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Russell, E.
Temple, E.

Althorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)

Aberdare, L.
Ampthill, L.
Boston, L.
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Castletown, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Eversley, L.
Farrer, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*)
Grimthorpe, L.
Hamilton of Dalzell, L.
Haversham, L.
Headley, L.
Hemphill, L.
Joicey, L.
Monkswell, L.
Monson, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Overtoun, L.
Pirrie, L.
Reay, L.
Rendel, L.
Ribblesdale, L. [*Teller.*]
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton.*)
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Weardale, L.
Welby, L.
Winterstoke, L.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee to-morrow.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, 29th October*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PETITION.*

### OUGHTON, MATILDA.

Petition of Matilda Oughton, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### JUDICIAL STATISTICS (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report on the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3725 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### AUDIT OF COUNTY ACCOUNTS (IRELAND) (FEES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th July; *Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh*]; to lie upon the Table.

### SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Urban District Council of Wexford, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of

Ireland, fixing the Hours of Closing, for certain classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Return ordered, "showing the total Expenditure authorised for Works under the following Acts:—Telegraphs, Naval Works, Military Works, Land Registry, Public Building Expenses, Public Offices (Dublin) Site, Cunard Agreements; the sums expended to the 21st day of March, 1906; the sums to be expended in current fiscal year; and the sums remaining to be expended after the 31st day of March 1907."—(*Mr. Rose.*)

---

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Overcrowding of Telephone Operators at Halifax Post Office.

MR. PARKER (Halifax): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will investigate the conditions under which the telephone operators at the Halifax Post Office are compelled to perform their duties, with a view to preventing the discomfort and danger to health resulting from overcrowding.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I shall have pleasure in inquiring into the matter, and I will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

### Telegraphists and Sorting Duties.

MR. PARKER: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that assurances were given by previous Postmasters General that telegraphists who entered the service previous to 1896 should not be compelled to perform the duty of letter sorting; and that experienced telegraphists at Halifax, with eighteen years service, are compelled to do letter sorting, whilst junior men from the sorting department are placed on duties attached to the telegraph office; and whether, in view of repeated official statements that the services in large towns are in course of being separated, he will explain the reasons for this action.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*): I am inquiring into this matter, and will give the hon. Member an Answer as soon as possible.

### Estate Duty.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state as to the case in which estate duty on £132,300 was paid in 1898 in respect of an estate successfully floated in 1900 with a capital of £450,000; whether a discharge was applied for under Section 11 of the Finance Act of 1894; and, if so, will he give the date of the certificate granted under that section.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) No application was made.

### Pay of Bombay Police.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether Bombay is the only province in India to which the increase of pay in the police department has not yet been extended; and whether, seeing that five lakhs were sanctioned last year and two and a half lakhs this year for that purpose, it will be possible to bring the new reorganisation scheme into force with effect from the 1st April, 1906, in Bombay, so far as relates to the European administration officers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The new scale of pay was extended to the Bombay Presidency on the 31st August last, with effect from the 1st April, 1906.

### Sara Bridge Project.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received from India the report of a meeting held at Darjeeling on the 27th September to protest against the delay caused by his postpondement of the Sara bridge project, adopted by the Government in 1903, and the resolutions passed at the meeting; on what ground the execution of the project has been so long delayed; and when it is intended to carry it through.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have not received a Report of a meeting at Darjeeling on the subject of the Sara bridge project. The resolution adopted by the Secretary of State in 1904 was to defer a decision as to the best site for a bridge over the Ganges, in Bengal, until further experience had been acquired of the direction of the traffic on the completion of certain lines then in progress. The question of the site to be adopted has not yet been settled, and I am unable to say when the bridge, which will be very costly and involves serious engineering considerations, will be undertaken.

### Promotions and Tranfers in the Indian Police Service.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received, through the Indian Government, memorials addressed to him by twelve European police officers in the Madras police force who complain of having been superseded, to the injury of their immediate and future prospects, by the importation from Burma of an official of junior standing; whether he has yet received any official information as to the reasons which led the Government of Madras to assign to the officer transferred from the Burma to the Madras police the particular place in the list allotted to him; whether it is proposed to relieve the grievances complained of in the Burma police, by further transfers of officers to other provinces; and, if so, whether due regard will be had in giving them appointments to the interests and prospects of those who are already on the lists in those provinces.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The memorials have not yet been received through the Government of India, and I am afraid that I can at present add nothing to the Answer given to the hon. Member on 14th May last.†

### Disposal of Sites and Buildings Connected with the Defence of London.

MR. GIBBS (Bristol, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is now in a position to state his proposals with regard to disposing of the sites and buildings connected with the defences of London.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the mobilisation centres. A definite announcement as to the disposal of the sites and buildings cannot yet be given, but it is proposed that some shall be sold and a few retained for stores.

### Motor Traffic—Petrol Smoke and Vegetation.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he is aware that the flowers in Parliament Square facing Canning's statue, by which motors pass, have this season been killed, while the flowers in the rest of the square, by which motors do not pass, have not been affected; and can he say whether he has any official reports showing that petrol smoke was the cause of the flowers dying.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) There are no official reports on this subject, but the damage is believed to have arisen from the creosote fumes arising from the new wood paving.

### The "MacDonnell" Letters.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware if any official or other documents exist in connection with the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell as Under-Secretary; if so, whether he will lay copies of them upon the Table for the information of Members; if he can say whether the Under-Secretary is at liberty to publish any letters he may have on the subject without the authority of the Government; and, if not, will he grant him the necessary permission.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) There is no record in the Chief Secretary's office of any documents connected with the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell as Under-Secretary except those of a purely formal character. With any correspondence which may have taken place between Sir Antony MacDonnell and any member or members of the late Government, His Majesty's present Government have no connection or responsibility, and over it they have no control. Sir Antony MacDonnell has asked me to say on his behalf that he has no personal objection to the publication of the correspondence referred to, but he sees no reason why he should take the initiative in publishing it, and he thinks that if his own letters are published all others relating to the matter should be published likewise.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 344.

### Rates for Piecework at Pimlico Clothing Factory.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any alterations are contemplated in the rates of payment for piecework at the Government Clothing Factory at Pimlico; and whether, in view of the known desire of the present Government to set an example to the community as model employers of labour, he is in a position to undertake that such alterations will not be reductions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Alterations are constantly being made in the rates of pay for the different garments produced at the Royal Army Clothing Factory to ensure that all classes of work are fairly remunerated. I cannot, therefore, undertake that no reduction shall be made; but, as I said in answer to a Question last Thursday,† notice of any alteration of rates will be given, and full opportunity afforded to the workers to interview the representatives of the Government on the matter should they so desire.

### Coolie Labour in British Colonies.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will say when it is probable that he will lay upon the Table of the House the Return moved for in February last and ordered to be made as to the countries within the Empire where coolie labour is employed and the conditions regulating the same, and also regulating the housing of such coolies.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Several Colonies have not yet replied, but every effort will be made to complete the Return before the close of the session.

### Lord Selborne and the Swazis.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can inform the House with respect to the statement made to the Swazis by the High Commissioner in September last, having reference to the establishment of direct Imperial control over their affairs, to their appeal for equitable settlement of disputed land questions, and to their claim to the revenue originally guaranteed for the maintenance of local native government.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Lord Selborne, when he met the paramount chief, the councillors, and people of the Swazi nation in September last, informed them that in the future he was to govern them in the name of the King as High Commissioner, and not as Governor of the Transvaal, and that their country would be governed by him as the King's own man, in the same way as he governs the countries of Khama and other chiefs in Bechuanaland. With regard to the Private Revenue Concession, which was cancelled on 16th February, 1905, Lord Selborne justified its cancellation on the ground that the King would now have to pay for the administration of the country, and that there was nothing to show in Swaziland for all the money which the paramount chiefs of Swaziland have received in times past. The amount due as having been collected between 1st November, 1899, and 16th February, 1905, has been converted into a Trust Fund, out of which the paramount chief will get £800 a year, in addition to a stipend of £1,000 a year from the Government. The question of land settlement stands over for the present.

### Transvaal Self-Government—Issue of Letters Patent.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the letters patent conferring responsible government on the white inhabitants of the Transvaal will be issued; and whether opportunity will be given to Parliament to consider the terms thereof before final confirmation.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The House has already had an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon the principles of the Transvaal constitution, in accordance with which the letters patent are being framed. I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by debating the main question over again before the issue of the letters patent which will be expedited as much as possible. I cannot at the moment fix a precise date, but it is hoped they may issue during the month of November.

---

† See Cols. 406, 407.

### Contract Labour in Portuguese Territory.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will lay upon the Table of the House a Report received from Consul Nightingale as to his recent visit to the Islands of San Thomé and Principé to inquire into the condition of contract labourers recruited for service therein, with other correspondence bearing on the recruitment of natives in Angola for that and other service in Portuguese territory; and whether he will inform the House as to action taken or contemplated by His Majesty's Government with a view to fulfilment of international obligations entered upon by the Portuguese Government as regards the suppression of slavery and slave trading.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) A Report from Consul Nightingale has been received, but it was not written in a form for publication, and it deals only with part of the question. I may say generally that the conclusion is that the labourers in San Thomé Principé are well treated, but it is doubtful whether the provisions for repatriation under the new regulations have hitherto been made effective. This and other information, which has been received or is expected soon, will be brought to the notice of the Portuguese Government, in the hope that they will take steps to remedy the evils that exist. When this has been done and a reply has been received I will see whether Papers can be laid.

### Ordnance Survey Maps—Irish Work at Southampton.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in connection with the ordnance survey in Ireland, a very large number of maps of one-inch scale and four-inch scale are being procured from Southampton; and whether work which could be more conveniently and economically done in Ireland has been transferred to Southampton.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The coloured editions of the one-inch and one quarter-inch maps are printed at Southampton, but no work has been transferred to Southampton which could be done more conveniently and economically in Ireland.

### Retiring Gratuity to Inspector of Taxes.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the amount of the gratuity granted to the late clerk, an inspector of taxes, who was compelled to retire after thirty-nine years service on account of reaching the age of sixty-two; and whether he will state what pension would have been awarded him had he been a Treasury official of the same service and at the same remuneration.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The amount of the gratuity was £78. I can give no reply to the hypothetical question contained in the second paragraph, beyond assuring the hon. Member that the mere fact of service in the Treasury would not have secured for this officer more favourable treatment than he has received.

### Alleged Infringement of the Building Act in the Camberwell New Road.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that certain tenants residing in Camberwell New Road received a peremptory notice to give up, without compensation or reduction of rent, the greater portion of their back gardens, under penalty of eviction; whether he is aware that blocks of buildings are being erected close to the backs of the existing houses, almost to the exclusion of necessary light and air; and whether he will have this matter inquired into and reported upon by the local authority's surveyor.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have made inquiry on this subject, and am informed that it is the fact that the greater portion of the back gardens of the houses in question has been taken away and that a garage is being erected on the site. I understand that a clear space of about twenty feet from the back walls of the houses has been left, and that the district surveyor has been instructed by the Building Act Committee of the London County Council to report if any infringement of the Act takes place. The matter is not one with respect to which the Local Government Board have any jurisdiction.

### Saxmundham Water Scheme.

MR. HAROLD PEARSON (Suffolk, Eye): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if the Report of the inquiry on the application of the Saxmundham Urban Council for power to borrow £5,200 for a water scheme, held on 31st July, is yet completed; and, if so, when it will be made public, and if not completed, what the cause of the delay has been.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Report has been received and considered, and on the 25th instant I caused a letter to be addressed to the district council on the subject to which it relates.

### Unemployed Distress Committees and Government Grants.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board to which of the distress committees under the Unemployed Workmen's Act he had sent Circular No. 1, expressing the Board's willingness to consider an application for a grant out of the Parliamentary Vote of £200,000.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I will forward my hon. friend a list of the distress committees to whom the circular has been sent.

### Inquest on C. H. Buck—Removal of Body to Bristol.

MR. W. HOPE (Somersetshire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the circumstances attending the inquest held on 15th August last on Charles Henry Buck, who was drowned in the Bristol Channel and whose body was removed from his home at Pill to Bristol for the purpose of holding the inquest there; and whether he will take steps to prevent any such occurrence in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I find on inquiry that C. H. Buck was drowned in the River Avon, and that that river and its banks are within the limits of the city and county of Bristol. In these circumstances, the course followed in this case appears to be the only one permissible by law, and I have no authority to intervene.

### Conviction and Expulsion of Aliens.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a Return stating how many aliens have been convicted in Metropolitan police courts, and for what offences, since the passing of the Aliens Act; how many have been recommended for deportation; and in how many cases such recommendation has been carried out.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I can give full details as to the cases of aliens recommended for expulsion. They will be found set out in the table below. As regards the cases of aliens convicted in Metropolitan police courts I regret that the information is not available. It could only be obtained by prolonged inquiry and could not in any case be relied on as complete, even if confined to cases for which expulsion could be recommended.

Expulsion Orders.

| | Total Recommendations. | Offences. | | | | | | | | Actions taken on Recommendations. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 Concerned in keeping brothel. | 2 Living on proceeds of prostitution. | 3 Soliciting, importuning, &c. | 4 Concerned in keeping gaming houses. | 5 Wandering abroad, begging, &c. | 6 Larceny, &c. | 7 Assault or drunk and disorderly. | 8 Miscellaneous. | Orders made. | Orders refused. | Aliens in prison awaiting order. |
| Metropolitan Police Courts - - | 174 | 55 | 17 | 15 | 5 | 32 | 25 | 10 | 15 | 126 | 4 | 43* |
| City of London Courts - - | 9 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 4 | 2 | — | 8 | — | 1 |

* Does not include one case where the alien appealed against his conviction, was released on bail for the purpose of the appeal, and absconded.

### Regent's Park Fencing.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether in view of the feeling existing amongst residents in Regent's Park, he will replace the existing oak fencing with fencing of the same material instead of by iron railings; and whether he can give any estimate as to the approximate cost of upkeep per year with regard to painting and otherwise of oak fencing and iron railings.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) The recent cost of upkeep of the oak fence has been £250 per annum as compared with an estimated cost of £20 per annum for iron fencing. The cost of replacing the whole fencing in oak as at present would be £12,000, and in iron £4,200. I regret that in these circumstances I do not see my way to renew the oak fencing.

### Rifle Shooting in Schools.

MR. MADDISON (Burnley): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the sanction he has given to the Kent County Council to give lessons in rifle shooting applies to all the schools under its jurisdiction; if not, whether he will give the names of the schools affected, with the ages of the children who are permitted to use rifles.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have nothing to add to the full reply which I gave this afternoon on this subject to the hon. Member for South Lanarkshire.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will lay upon the Table any correspondence which has taken place in reference to the teaching or the practice of rifle shooting in schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The full information, which I have given in reply to the Question put to me this afternoon by the hon. Member for South Lanarkshire, is all that I have in my possession, and no useful purpose would be served by laying upon the Table the very brief correspondence in which that matter was dealt with.

### The Madras Estates Land Bill.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Madras Government proposes to refer the revised Estates Land Bill to district and divisional officers, to public bodies, and to experts before passing into law a measure to which many of those interested entertain strong objections.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The provisions of the Bill are still under discussion. I have no doubt that it is the intention of the Government of Madras to give all proper facilities for public criticism before the Bill is passed into law.

### Trade Routes between India and Tibet.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view to developing trade in general, and trade in particular between India and Tibet, the Government of India proposes to make the road to Chumbi fit for cart traffic or otherwise to improve the trade routes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Government of India have submitted no proposals as to the road to Chumbi or the improvement of the trade routes.

### Evicted Tenants in Queen's County.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can supply a list giving the names and addresses of the evicted tenants in Queen's County, or their representatives, particulars of whose claims have been lodged with the Estates Commissioners; and also the number of those who have been reinstated or got other holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the number of applications for reinstatement as evicted tenants in Queen's County is 211. The number restored, to the knowledge of the Commissioners, is thirty-nine, including two evicted tenants from whom applications were not received. The Commissioners do not think it feasible to furnish a list giving the names and addresses of applicants. The preparation of such a Return for each of the counties of Ireland would take up a considerable portion of the time of their staff, which is already fully occupied upon its regular duties, and the benefit to be derived from such a Return would be quite incommensurate with the time and labour involved in its compilation.

### Football and Hurling Grounds in Phœnix Park.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Gaelic Athletic Association have applied to the Board of Works for football and hurling grounds in the Phœnix Park, Dublin; and whether he can state why their request has not been complied with, in view of the fact that other clubs have received accommodation when required and requested.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I understand that it is not possible to allocate a greater area of the Phœnix Park for grounds for games than is now allocated. The apportionment of the area between different games is determined by the requirements of each, and the Commissioners of Public Works inform me that the area assigned for Gaelic football and hurling grounds is fully proportionate to the relative demand. Since last season an additional ground has been assigned to these games. If the hon. Member requires further particulars he will find them in the Answer given by me to a Question by the hon. Member for the North Division of Dublin on the 28th February last.†

### Marine Works at Innishlyre, County Mayo.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is yet in a position to state when the marine works will be commenced at Innishlyre, county Mayo; whether he is aware that the Under-Secretary for Ireland addressed a letter to the Mayo County Council on 10th March, 1903, informing them that it was proposed to construct, out of the money provided under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act, 1902, a harbour at Innishlyre, near Westport, which was to cost £40,000, and that, as a condition of the the work being carried out, the county council should agree to raise a county fund for the repair and maintenance of the harbour; and whether, seeing that the county council passed a resolution, on 12th December, 1904, agreeing to raise such fund, and sent it to the Lord-Lieutenant on 30th December, 1904, he can explain the delay in commencing the work, seeing that the county council agreed to carry out their part of the undertaking.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the facts are generally as stated in the first part of the Question, but it should also be added that it was a condition of the scheme that the Midland Great Western Railway Company should contribute towards the cost of a railway connecting their line with the proposed harbour at Innishlyre. I understand that the railway company withdrew from the scheme before the late Government left office, and the scheme was thereupon suspended. His Majesty's present Government have under consideration alternative schemes for the benefit of County Mayo, but the matter has not yet reached a stage at which I can make a definite statement on the subject.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Wages in the Royal Dockyards.

SIR J. BAKER (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state when he will be able to give detailed particulars respecting the division of the £60,000 allotted as additional wages amongst the employees of the Royal Dockyards.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Detailed particulars will be published in ten days time.

### Plymouth Fishermen's Grievances.

MR. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the attention of the First Lord has been drawn to the serious damage suffered by Plymouth drifters at the hands of French trawlers on Monday night last, resulting in a great loss of gear; and whether he will consider the possibility of giving effective protection to the Plymouth fishermen against a repetition of such attacks.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The attention of the Admiralty has already been called to the incident, and inquiry is being made. The Admiralty are now in communication with the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade with regard to the question of protecting fishermen in these waters.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clii, 1146.

### Duke of York's School.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the question of the disposal of the site of the Duke of York's School has been considered by the Inter-Departmental Committee, and with what results?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): This matter is still under the consideration of the Inter-Departmental Committee.

### The New Bayonet.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the pattern for the new bayonet to be issued to the troops has now been selected.

MR. HALDANE: The pattern for the new bayonet has not yet been settled.

### Mauritius.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the reason for the increase in the strength of the Mauritius garrison which has been taking place during the last five years; what has been the amount paid for the purchase of land from private people for military purposes during that period; what has been the cost of the erection of new barracks in Mauritius; and can he state what has been the amount of local taxation levied in order to meet this additional military expenditure.

MR. HALDANE: The establishment of the Mauritius garrison has been slightly reduced during the last few years, though the actual strength was somewhat depleted at the beginning of that period, owing to the war. The amount paid for purchase of land during the last five years was £4,024, and £124,050, was spent upon new barracks. As the colony pays a fixed percentage of its revenue as a military contribution, no additional local taxation has been levied for military purposes.

### Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield.

MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any decision has been yet come to as to raising the wages of labourers at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, to the level of the wages now paid to the same class at Woolwich.

MR. HALDANE: I regret that I am not yet in a position to give a final decision in regard to this question, which is receiving consideration.

### Royal Arsenal, Woolwich—Discharges of Workmen.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many men were employed by the Government at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich on the 1st of January last, and how many are employed at the present time; and if the Government propose to make any further alteration in the number of the workmen employed there.

MR. HALDANE: The number of men employed in the Ordnance Factories at Woolwich was 14,709 on the 30th December, 1905, and 13,775 on the 20th instant. I am afraid that further discharges will be necessary before the normal establishment of the factories is reached, but I hope that these will not be more than 150 or 200 men.

### India Frontier Defence—The Moplahs.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Government of India has proposed the mustering out of the two battalions of Moplahs, on the ground that they return excessive sick rates; whether he is aware that such battalions of men from a climate of which excessive moisture and heat are the characteristics were removed, immediately after leaving Southern India to a North-West frontier station, the characteristics of the climate of which are extreme dryness and cold; whether at all recruiting centres in South India an agency is now engaged in dissuading men from enlisting, on the score of the treatment the Moplah battalions have received; whether South Indian regiments have participated in the increases in the number of officers allotted to North Indian regiments; and whether, in view of the effect of returning discontented Moplah ex Sepoys to the Malabar district in which so many Moplah outbreaks have occurred, he will take steps to prevent the discouragement of recruiting in Southern India, in view of the fact that recruiting in the Punjab and Northern India is becoming more difficult and precarious.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): One of the two Moplah battalions was sent to Dera Ismail Khan with a view to training them for the Field Army and giving them Frontier experience. They were withdrawn after three months having broken down in health. No proposal has reached me for the reduction of either of the battalions. I am not aware of any agency being engaged at recruiting centres in dissuading men from enlistment, and I do not know that any steps are required to prevent the discouragement of recruiting in Southern India. I have not yet received a Report as to the allotment of the officers provided under the recent increase, but it is the intention of the Government of India to allot British officers proportionately to established native strength, which in the case of some Madras regiments has ecently been reduced.

### Petitions from Indian Natives.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that since the amended rules governing the presentation of memorials from aggrieved Indian natives have come into force, cases have occurred in which petitions have failed to reach the Secretary of State owing to technical objections on the part of the authorities, although the aggrieved person or persons have observed the necessary formal preliminaries; and, if so, whether he will issue instructions directing that in all cases in future where the necessary preliminaries have been complied with petitions shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State.

MR. MORLEY: The rules relating to the presentation of memorials are perfectly accessible to the public, and a Return of memorials that have been withheld under them is furnished to me quarterly. I am not aware of any such cases as the hon. Member describes, but if he will give me particulars of those which he has in mind, I will satisfy myself as to the reasons for which the memorials were withheld.

### Siem of the Cherra State.

MR O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether representation has been made to him regarding the appointment of the present Siem of the Cherra State in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District, pointing out that Lord Curzon, in making such appointment, violated the usual and traditional custom by which the clans and people of Cherra State considered, selected, and submitted to the proper authority for ratification the name of a successor to the Siemship who, in their judgment, was best fitted for the position; and whether, in view of the protest of the clans and people of the Cherra State, he will grant an investigation into the matter by an officer conversant with the language, manners, and customs of the people, with a view of remedying, if possible, the grievance complained of.

MR. MORLEY: No memorials as to the Siemship of the Cherra State have been received by the Secretary of State through the Government of India since the statement made by my predecessor on 18th February, 1904, in reply to a similar Question.† As was then explained, the Government of India, having regard to precedents and to all the circumstances of the case, were unable to approve the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner that the decision of the majority of the Durbar, at which only the twelve heads of the clans constituting the State were present, should be accepted, and ordered a popular election to be held at which Roba Singh was chosen unanimously. The Government then confirmed Roba Singh as chief. I see no sufficient reason for re-opening the question, which was very carefully considered both by the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council.

### Opium Traffic with China.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Down I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what steps the Government has taken to carry out the unanimous Resolution of the House of Commons in favour of the abolition of the opium traffic between India and China.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxx., 235-6.

MR. MORLEY: The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the Chinese Government are understood to be contemplating the issue of regulations for restricting the cultivation, import, and consumption of opium. His Majesty's Government have not received any communication on the subject from the Chinese Government; but, as I have already stated, they are prepared, when specific proposals are put before them by that Government, to consider them in a sympathetic spirit, and His Majesty's Minister has been instructed to make a communication to this effect to the Chinese Government.

### The Partition of Bengal.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he proposes to lay any Papers revealing the history of the agitation against the constitution of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the origin of such agitation in Calcutta, the encouragement of such agitation in England, and the intentions of the Government in respect of the maintenance of the existing administrative arrangements.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the expediency of laying Papers relating to the resignation of Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller, recently Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal, with a view to dispelling any misconception to which that resignation may have given rise.

MR. MORLEY: As regards the Question on the Paper, I consider it would be contrary in the highest degree to the public interest to present Papers such as the hon. Gentleman describes. As to the future, it has already been stated so often and so explicitly that His Majesty's Government look upon the partition of Bengal as a settled fact, that it appears superfluous to publish any further statement on the subject. In answer to the Question of the noble Lord, if he will ask for Papers I see no objection whatever in presenting to the House the Papers—not very voluminous—which immediately concern the resignation of Sir Bampfylde Fuller.

*MR. REES: I have received Answers to the other Questions which I have on the Paper and will not trouble the right hon. Gentleman.

### Transvaal Elections.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he can state what is the date fixed or the approximate date for the elections in the Transvaal.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): It is impossible to say more at present, but that it is hoped the voters roll may be completed in January, and that the elections may take place about the end of February.

### Newfoundland.

SIR JOHN RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether any, and, if so, what steps were taken to insure that the Government of Newfoundland should be informed as to the terms of the *modus vivendi* with the United States of America recently concluded prior to their acceptance; and on what date the first information of a definite character was conveyed to the Colony from the Colonial Office or other official sources.

MR. CHURCHILL: The decision of His Majesty's Government that a *modus vivendi* was necessary, and their intention to make proposals to the United States Government for such an arrangement were communicated to the Colonial Government by telegram some days before the United States Government were informed. In the same telegram the Colonial Government were asked to give their views as to the form which the *modus vivendi* should take. No proposals were actually made to the United States Government until the reply of the Colonial Government had been received. Throughout the negotiations the Colonial Government were kept fully and promptly apprised by telegram; and His Majesty's Government answered no communication from the United States Government without first consulting the Colonial Government and endeavouring to obtain their concurrence. The note from the United States Ambassador ratifying the arrangement embodied in the previous correspondence was telegraphed verbatim to the Government on the same date as it was written and received—viz., the 6th inst.

Sir JOHN RANDLES: Then did not the Government succeed in obtaining the concurrence of the Colonial Government?

Mr. CHURCHILL: I said the other day we had not been fortunate enough to do so.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): When will Papers be laid?

Mr. CHURCHILL: Perhaps the noble Lord will address that Question to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

### Transvaal Duties on Spirits.

Mr. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under Article 16 of the Customs Union Convention provisionally agreed to by the South African Colonies, it is proposed in the Transvaal to substitute for the existing duty of 15s. per gallon on spirits a preferential duty of 7s. 6d. to 9s. per gallon on brandy manufactured within the Customs Union, including the cheap Cape brandy mainly relegated to the use of natives and coloured persons, while raising under Article 2 the general duty on spirits to 19s. per gallon; and that, in spite of the prohibition of the supply of drink to natives and coloured persons in the Transvaal under the law of 1902, there has been illicit sale of spirits to such persons, which illicit sale will be facilitated by the increased supply of cheap brandy owing to the lowered duty; and that the Witwatersrand Church Council, composed of representatives of all the Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Churches on the Rand, opposed the change when it was before the Legislative Council, which, however, carried it against the votes of all but one of the non-official members of the Legislative Council; and whether, seeing that the Church Council has now appealed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to refuse his assent to this part of the Customs Union Ordinance, he will take steps to secure that this alteration of the spirit duty shall not be made until after the grant of responsible government to the Transvaal.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is aware of the facts stated by the hon. Member. He has not seen fit to accede to the request of the Witwatersrand Church Council as he understands that in agreeing to the provisions of the Customs Convention which are in question, the Transvaal Government took note of the fact that, with similar provisions in the law of the Orange River Colony, prohibition had been effectively enforced on the natives, and that prohibition had been substantially effective in their own Colony when spirits were still manufactured at the Hatherley Distillery. The position of the new Legislature is safeguarded by the fact that the arrangement can be determined at six months' notice, without prejudice to the remainder of the Customs Convention.

In answer to a further Question, Mr. Churchill said the position of the new Legislature was fully safeguarded.

### Mr. Bowman's Expulsion from Spain.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any Report from the British Consul at Madrid concerning the arrest and expulsion from Spain of a British subject named Guy Bowman, who had gone to that country in pursuit of his calling as a journalist; and whether he proposes taking any action in connection therewith.

The SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey): His Majesty's Government have heard from His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid of the arrest of Mr. Bowman, upon whom papers were found addressed to Spanish anarchists, including one who was connected with the Madrid outrage. Mr. Bowman was to be conducted to the frontier in accordance with the Spanish Police Regulations, and His Majesty's Government do not intend to interfere with the action of the Spanish authorities.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE asked whether a copy of the papers alleged to have been found on Mr. Bowman had been asked for.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The incriminating papers have been seen by His Majesty's Vice-Consul.

### Great Britain, Russia and Persia.

Mr. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether any agreement has been arrived at between His Majesty's Government and that of Russia in relation to Persia: and, if so, whether he is in a position to give the terms of such arrangement.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No general agreement has been arrived at. The two Governments have discussed the events which have recently happened in Persia, with the object of avoiding any conflict of interest and of acting together when possible to preserve the *status quo.*

### Nickel Coinage.

Mr. W. R. REA (Scarborough): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, if his attention had been drawn to the convenience resulting from the increasing use of nickel in the coinage of foreign countries; and whether he will consider the desirability of following this example by the issue of nickel coins of the value of a penny and twopence, either in substitution for or for use concurrently with the present bronze ones.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.): I have no evidence that the present coinage is regarded as other than satisfactory by the public generally, and in the absence of any general demand for an alteration I should not be prepared to take the responsibility of interfering with it.

### Inland Revenue.

Mr. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, if his attention has been drawn to the work done in estate duty offices in England, Scotland, and Ireland, as represented by the revenue received per head of the staff employed; is he aware that in England the average annual amount of revenue dealt with per head during the five years ending 1900–1 was £74,859; that, owing to the increase in the staff during the next five years the average per head dropped to £50,111, and to £40,436 for the year 1905–6; that the corresponding figures per head of staff in Scotland are £77,066, £70,083, and £66,210 ,and for Ireland £36,229, £29,312, and £25,433; will he give the reason for the difference in the amount of revenue dealt with per head in England and Ireland as compared with Scotland; and will he take these figures into his consideration, and not only prevent further increase in the staff, but adjust the staff to the requirements of the service.

Mr. ASQUITH: The figures quoted by the hon. Member are correct. A reply to a Question does not provide a suitable opportunity for dealing in detail with the causes of the higher apparent cost in proportion to the amount of revenue collected in England and Ireland as compared with Scotland, or the conclusions to be drawn from it,—matters which can only be adequately discussed in Committee of Supply.

### Prison Officers' Pay.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now state the measures he proposes to take, or has taken, in reference to the petition of the prison officers in His Majesty's local prisons, asking that they may be placed upon the same scale of pay as the officers of His Majesty's convict prisons.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): I have made proposals to the Treasury with a view to certain improvements in the position of these officers. I cannot yet make any further statement on this subject, but I hope to be able to do so shortly.

### Durham Prison Industries.

Mr. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that ship cork fenders, made by prisoners in Durham Gaol, are being sold to firms outside at a price much below (2d. as against 2½d. per pound) what they can be made outside by the blind people engaged in this work; and, if so, whether it is his intention to take any action likely to minimise this competition and so enable the blind to make a living at this trade. The hon. Member explained that 2d. represented the retail price and 2½d. the net cost.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The manufacture of ship fenders for private customers is carried on to a small extent only in prisons, and the prison authorities regulate prices, so far as possible, so as to avoid interference with the outside market. I have no information as to the manufacture of these fenders by blind people, but as I have already informed my hon. friend privately, I shall be happy to consider, and if possible to remedy, any cases of hardship to them which may arise in the manner suggested, if he will kindly bring the particulars to my notice.

MR. SUMMERBELL: The information is on the way.

### Imperial Stock and Share Exchange.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to a circular issued by the Imperial Stock and Share Exchange, 19 and 21, Queen Victoria Street, London; and whether, in view of the provisions of the Public Acts relating to Lotteries and Gambling, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have seen the circular and have caused inquiry to be made. As at present advised I do not think proceedings could be successfully taken under the Acts referred to, but I am considering the matter further.

### The Expulsion of Aliens.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who pays the expenses of the return voyage of undesirable aliens who are refused permission to land in this country.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have no information on this point, and can only say that these expenses are not paid from public funds.

### Manners Colliery Explosion.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether, seeing that Mr. A. H. Stokes, His Majesty's Inspector of Mines, in his Report for 1905, states that the disastrous explosion at the Manners colliery showed even a well-ventilated mine cannot be trusted with naked lights, he will say if any other of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines have reported to the Home Office the danger to life by the use of naked lights.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. The danger connected with the use of naked lights in mines which are subject to fire-damp is one to which attention is frequently called by the Inspectors of Mines in their Reports.

### Coal Dust Explosions in Mines.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing Messrs. Cunynghame and Atkinson have reported to His Majesty's Government that the Courriéres mine disaster was, in their opinion, due to a coal dust explosion without any evidence of gas being present, and that if an explosion from the same cause occurred in this country the loss of life might equal that at Courrières, he will say if he has taken any steps to get special rules established prohibiting the use of naked lights in all British mines.

*MR. GLADSTONE: It would be impracticable to attempt to establish a special rule prohibiting the use of naked lights for every mine in the country. Special rules have to be proposed separately for each mine, and must have regard to "the particular state and circumstances" of the mine. If the owner objects to the rule proposed for his mine he has the right to take the matter to arbitration. It is by no means every mine in the country which is liable to a coal dust explosion, and in those that are so liable the mere prohibition of the use of naked lights alone would not be a sufficient protection. The question, however, whether the existing rules on the subject of the use of safety lamps require amendment, is included among those which have been referred by me for the consideration of the Royal Commission on Mines now sitting, and I would suggest that my hon. friend should address to that Commission any observations upon the subject which he may desire to make.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is no case on record at the Home Office where a coal dust explosion has been set up in any other manner than by shot firing? Will he introduce legislation dealing with shot firing in mines?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That matter is now and has been for some time past under the consideration of the Royal Commission, and, of course, no legislation can be undertaken until we have received the Report of the Commissioners.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Is the question of the proper watering of dry dusty mines also under consideration?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir.

### Outworkers and Particulars of Prices.

MR. J. W. TAYLOR Durham, Chester-le-Street): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that orders hitherto made under Section 116 of the Factory Act 1901, relating to particulars of rates of payment in home industries, leave it open to employers either to affix a list of prices or to supply the particulars of prices to each outworker; and whether, seeing that this system has enabled employers to pay different prices for the same class of work, thus facilitating the establishment of the lowest price paid as the sweating rate, he will consider the advisability of utilising the powers conferred by this section by requiring employers to both affix and supply such particulars.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The employer has no such option in the case of outworkers as my hon. friend thinks. Particulars of prices have to be supplied to each outworker in writing. With regard to the suggestion he makes, I am advised that I should have no power, in an order extending the requirements of Section 116 of the Factory Act, to carry it out. The section itself, in its general application, requires only a placard or a wages note, and not both; and in extending that requirement to other trades the only modifications that may be introduced are such as may be necessary to adapt the requirement to the circumstances of the particular trade.

### Commissioners of Sewers.

MR. GODFREY BARING (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to the constitution of courts or boards of commissioners of sewers who possess and exercise extensive powers of spending money and levying rates without any control, and without publishing any accounts; and whether he will take into consideration the desirability of promoting legislation to abolish such commissioners, and to confer such of their powers and duties as may seem desirable upon district or county councils.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): My attention has been drawn to the constitution of these bodies. The matter was considered by a Select Committee of the House of Lords in 1877, and has from time to time come before Parliament. There would be serious difficulties in the way of such a transfer of powers and duties as is suggested in the Question, and I understand that the Royal Commission on Erosion of the Coasts have before them the circumstances of these bodies where they exercise powers on or near to the sea coast. It would be necessary for me to communicate with my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries before any promise of legislation on the subject could be given, and at present it does not appear to me that the time would be opportune for proposing legislation.

### Lord de Ramsey and the Allotment Holders.

MR. BOULTON (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that 800 men have been turned out of their allotments by Lord de Ramsey on his estates in Huntingdonshire, and that the urban district council has refused to put into operation its compulsory powers under the Local

Government Act, 1894; and what steps the Local Government Board have taken or intend to take to procure land for the men who have been deprived of their holdings.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he is aware that the urban district council at Ramsey, in Huntingdonshire, have refused to apply for compulsory powers to enable them to provide allotments for the 800 men who last January got notice to quit their allotments from Lord de Ramsey, and that eleven out of the twelve members of the council are tenants of Lord de Ramsey; and whether the Local Government Board as an independent authority will use its influence to secure land on reasonable terms for the dispossessed men.

MR. NICHOLLS (Northamptonshire, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that 800 allotment holders on the Ramsey Estate in Huntingdonshire have received from Lord de Ramsey notice to quit their holdings; that the Ramsey Urban Council have not applied for compulsory powers to enable them to provide allotments for these men; that by the taking away of these allotments the men are robbed of one of the most effectual means of preventing the rural labourer from overcrowding the labour market in the large towns; that their eviction will make thousands of allotment holders in other parts of the country now feel insecure; and that nearly the whole of the members of the urban council are Lord de Ramsey's tenants; and, if so, whether the Local Government Board are taking any steps to help these men to secure suitable land for allotments.

MR. WINFREY (Norfolk, S.W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will hold an immediate local inquiry into the circumstances under which the 800 allotment holders in the district of Ramsey have been turned out of their holdings by Lord de Ramsey, and the failure of the district council to supply them with land on fair and reasonable terms.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer together this and the three other Questions on the Paper relating to the same subject. I am aware that Lord de Ramsey has given notice to 800 allotment holders on his estates in Huntingdonshire to relinquish their allotments, and that the Ramsey Urban District Council have declined to apply for powers to hire land compulsorily for allotment purposes. I have no authority to direct an inquiry of the kind suggested by my hon. friend the Member for South-west Norfolk, nor am I empowered to procure land for the men who have lost their holdings. The matter is one which rests with the district council, or, upon their default, with the county council. I have, however, not yet been informed by either of these councils of the reasons why they have not thought fit to exercise their powers under the Allotments Acts in the present case, and I am in communication with them on the subject. I may add that I have expressed my willingness to confer on the urban district council the power of hiring land compulsorily for allotments if the necessary application is made to me for the purpose.

### Register of Paupers.

MR. W. HOPE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board how many boards of guardians have consented and how many have refused to keep the register referred to in the Board's Circular of 18th September last.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have received communications from about 300 boards of guardians on the subject of the suggested register of paupers, from which it appears that in about 140 cases the guardians have not adopted the suggestion that a register should be kept. I understand that in some instances the Return, for the purpose of which the register was intended, can be prepared from the existing records, and I am considering what arrangements should be made to secure that the Return shall be furnished in other cases where objection is raised to the keeping of the register.

### The West Riding Judgment.

SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether in view of the decision of the Government to appeal against the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the case of the King *v.* the West Riding of Yorkshire County Council, he can make any statement for the guidance of local education authorities as to the continuance of payments for the provision of religious instruction in non-provided schools.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The difficulty which the local education authorities feel in this matter appears to arise out of the doubt whether payments of the kind referred to in the Question will be disallowed by the district auditors. The expenditure which comes before the auditors at the audits now being held relates to the financial year ended 31st March—*i.e.*, before the decision of the Court of Appeal was given. The Local Government Board are sanctioning this expenditure under the Local Authorities' (Expenses) Act, where application is made to them for the purpose, if no objection is raised by ratepayers at the audit. No disallowance can then be made. Where ratepayers object at the audit to the expenditure, the Board think that the matter had better stand over until the decision of the House of Lords has been given. Expenditure during the present financial year will not come before the auditors until after 31st March next, and presumably, therefore, after the decision of the House of Lords has been obtained. It is premature to consider now what course should be taken after that decision, but I may say that there will be no desire on the part of the Government that members of local authorities should suffer personally for *bona fide* expenditure incurred before the decision is given.

### Poplar Schools at Hutton.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the total amount of money which has been spent by the Poplar Board of Guardians upon the erection of schools at Hutton, Essex, including provision of fittings and furniture; and what number of children the schools are intended to accommodate.

MR. JOHN BURNS: As I have stated in reply to previous Questions, the total amount sanctioned in respect of the provision of these schools, including the cost of the site, is £156,545. I am not able to state the exact amount which has been spent on them. The schools are intended to accommodate 624 children.

### Islington Borough Treasurer.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Islington Board of Guardians are precluded from stipulating with their bankers for payment of interest on their monthly balances if such balance at any time falls below £2,500; and whether he will take steps to enable the guardians to stipulate for interest on their actual balance without any minimum limit.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The treasurer of the Islington Board of Guardians was appointed without salary, and was not bound to allow any interest on the balances of the moneys of the guardians in his hands. I understand that in fact he allows interest on the daily balances exceeding £2,500. The interest on any sum below this amount must be regarded as remuneration for the discharge of his duties, and the arrangement could not be altered without his consent.

### Trade Combination.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the fact that great combinations of capital, or price rings, or both, have been formed in connection with the manufacture of iron and steel, tobacco, soap, sewing-cotton, wall-paper, cement, and other products, with the result that monopolies or quasi-monopolies have been created and prices raised against the consumer; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation to establish public competition with the monopolists or to secure public control of the monopolised trades.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have heard of the existence of combinations of manufacturers of a number of articles including those mentioned in the Question of my hon. friend. The Board of Trade are fully alive to the importance of the matter, but I am not at present prepared to introduce legislation on the subject.

### Salisbury Railway Disaster.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the action of the London and South Western Railway Company in reducing the guard of the train in the Salisbury disaster to the position of ticket collector, at a loss of wages of 6s. 6d. per week, as a direct result of the Report of the Board of Trade inspector; and whether he will make inquiry into the general practice and responsibility of guards in regard to the speed of trains.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: My attention had not previously been drawn to the matter referred to, which appears to be one within the discretion of the railway company. An inquiry as suggested does not appear to be necessary or likely to serve any useful purpose.

### London and North Western Railway Pension Fund.

MR. WARDLE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been directed to the new pension fund which the London and North Western Railway Company propose to institute for their locomotive staff, which fund is being made a test of employment; and, if not, whether he will make full inquiry in reference thereto.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: My attention had not been previously called to this matter, but I have communicated a copy of the hon. Member's Question to the railway company for their observations.

### Compulsory School Attendance.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether there is any foreign country or British colony in which compulsory education begins at so early an age as five.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I am unable to answer for the school laws of all foreign countries in the world, but so far as I can learn from information easily available compulsory attendance, where there is any, begins at a later age than five.

### School Attendance in Rural Districts.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the recommendation of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration that school attendance in rural districts should not be compulsory till the age of six, or possibly seven, and should be discouraged, if not absolutely prohibited under five; and whether he proposes to take any steps to give effect to this recommendation.

MR. BIRRELL: As at present advised the Government have no intention of prohibiting the attendance of children under five years of age in rural districts. The question of requiring the attendance of such children or not rests with the option of the local education authorities.

MR. HAROLD COX: May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman will discourage local authorities from permitting children under five to attend school?

MR. BIRRELL: I am rather shy of any interference with local authorities.

### Rifle Shooting by School Boys.

MR. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the rifle shooting in the Kent board school was experimental; if so, what will be the cost of the experiment; and whether he has it in contemplation to make rifle practice universal in our national schools.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn): May I also ask the President of the Board of Education if he will state under what authority permission has been given by the Department to the Kent Education Committee to include instruction in rifle shooting in the school curriculum during ordinary school hours and at the public expense; if he will state if the Board has sanctioned the syllabuses submitted for such teaching for the schools at Eynsford and Shoreham; if this application from the Kent Education Committee is the first of the kind received by the Board of Education; and, if not, what other such applications have been before the Board, and with what result in each case.

MR. BIRRELL: The case in which the question of instruction in rifle shooting in a public elementary school first came before me was that of an undenominational British school at Bushey in Hertfordshire (not in Kent) in March last. My own personal view, and the advisers of my Department have advised me in the same sense, is that it is not desirable that rifle shooting should be included in the time-table of public elementary schools, since it is unsuitable for children of the ages likely to be found in these schools, and is not in itself a good means of physical exercise. But as, in the particular case before me, both the county authority and local persons closely conversant with the circumstances of the school were strongly desirous that the instructions should be given, I decided not to give a direct prohibition from the first, but to permit an experiment to be made for a time, and after closely watching it, to give a definite decision on the point at the end of the school year now current. I attached careful conditions to the experiment and in particular (a) that it should not encroach upon the time required for proper physical exercises, (b) that it should be restricted to boys of proper physique and to boys who have reached the age of twelve years, and (c) that a special syllabus, shewing the nature of the teaching, should be submitted to and approved by the Board. The manager of the Bushey School estimated that the cost of the experiment would be £20 in the one year, and there is an annual income from endowment which will be much more than sufficient to meet this expenditure. As I have said, the sanction given in the Hertfordshire case was strictly experimental and provisional, and pending a report on its results in the Hertfordshire case, I had not the smallest intentions of extending it elsewhere. I find, however, that by some misunderstanding of my intention in this respect a provisional consent to a similar experiment, subject to the submission of a satisfactory syllabus, has been given by letter in the case of four other schools, viz., Hayward's Heath, St. Wilfrid's National School in East Sussex, Overbury National School in Worcestershire, Shoreham Council School and Eynsford National School in Kent. These are the only other applications which I have received in regard to rifle shooting. I am sorry that any extension of my permission in the Bushey case should have taken place, but the House may rest assured that no further permission of any sort or kind will be given.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): In either of these cases were the parents of these children consulted before the order was given?

MR. BIRRELL: In no case is any child to be allowed to practice rifle shooting unless the consent has been first obtained of the parents.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): Would not bows and arrows be more suitable to the tender age of these young warriors?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Very clever that.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in Ireland not only are the children, but the grown up men, forbidden to make use of firearms?

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford): Seeing that the consent has been given inadvertently, does the right hon. Gentleman intend to go on and not wait for the experience obtained at Bushey?

MR. BIRRELL: Having regard to the letter written by the persons in my Department it would not be fair to withhold the permission that they were certainly justified in giving. But the experiment will be confined to these places only.

MR. ROWLANDS: What is the opinion of these parents? Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there is a great difference of opinion with regard to the experiment and that many parents object?

MR. BIRRELL: Such parents would not of course allow their children to receive the instruction.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): May we take it that until the authorities have made a scrutiny of the system in these five cases it will be no good for other local authorities to apply for any further sanction in these circumstances?

MR. BIRRELL: None whatever.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): In the event of the experiment at Bushey turning out a success, will the right hon. Gentleman give permission for rifle practice in other schools?

MR. BIRRELL: That depends on the report I receive from my own educational authorities.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay the Report on the Table of the House?

MR. BIRRELL: I am perfectly content to do that.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I wish to ask the President of the Board of Education whether rifle-shooting is regarded by the Board of Education as a necessary part of physical training, or whether the Board considers it necessary for the purpose of national defence; and whether he is aware of any new danger confronting this country, rendering necessary increased preparations for defence, or whether the Board of Education is to become a preparatory training authority and auxiliary of the Army.

MR. BIRRELL: I do not regard rifle shooting in elementary schools as a necessary part of physical training. I do not consider it necessary for the purpose of national defence. I am not aware of any new danger threatening this country nor, while I am President, will the Board of Education become a preparatory training authority and auxiliary of the Army.

### The Hobhouse Inquiry.

SIR GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea Town): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a member of the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to investigate the question of wages of Post Office servants, presented himself at the Swansea Post Office and asked to inspect the buildings; that, in view of the fact that in London and elsewhere representative men from the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association accompanied members of the Select Committee during the inspection of offices as well as departmental officials, the local committee of the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association asked the postmaster of Swansea for the same facilities, which they were refused; and whether, seeing that they were afterwards reprimanded for making the request, he will inquire into the circumstances and state if the reprimand has been entered on the official records to the detriment of the men.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The matter in question was brought to my attention, and I inquired into it. There is no official record to the prejudice of the officers in question.

### Margate Postal Arrangements.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can state why the late fee for letters posted after the final clearing of the box at 9.45 p.m., at the chief post office at Margate, has been abolished; and whether he will consider the advisability of taking steps to re-establish it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: There has never been any late fee posting at Margate in connection with the present night mail despatch. Prior to 1899, when the hour for posting was changed from 8.12 p.m. to 9.45 p.m., there was a late fee collection at 8.40 p.m., but there has been none since.

### Postal Facilities in the West Indies.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that grave inconvenience is being caused in the northern islands of the West Indies owing to the lack of adequate postal facilities; and whether he will endeavour to secure these at an early date.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: A contract was recently concluded by the Crown Agents for the Colonies providing for a regular monthly mail service to the northern islands of the West Indies from Barbados; and I have not been made aware that the service, which has not been arranged by the Post Office, is found to be inadequate by the West Indian communities. Mails for these islands are as a matter of fact despatched fortnightly from the United Kingdom to Barbados for onward transmission by any opportunity which may arise in addition to those afforded by the inter-colonial packets under the contract referred to.

### Burwell Estate, Cambridgeshire.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, how many labourers employed by the Crown on the Burwell Estate in Cambridgeshire have been discharged from their employment in connection with the scheme for converting the estate into small holdings; the length of service of each of them on that property; how many of them have been re-housed; how many of them have been compensated for their loss of employment and the loss of their homes.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The Crown farm at Burwell, comprising 917 acres, which was in hand, has been let on lease for twenty-one years to my hon. friend the Member for Newmarket. He has sub-let it to fifty-nine small holders who are now settled on the land. The number of labourers who received notice was thirty-nine, eight of whom had worked on the farm for over twenty years, two between fifteen and twenty years, four between ten and fifteen years, twelve between five and ten years, and thirteen under five years. A sum of £389 has been paid by my hon. friend to these men as compensation, in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Office of Woods, and based on length of service. A considerable number of the men were at once taken on by the new tenants, and all the others have now found other employment in the neighbourhood. There are fourteen cottages on the farm, which were occupied by twenty-two of the labourers. The occupants of nine of these cottages have had to leave their cottages, but they have found other accommodation in the neighbourhood, and the cost of their removal has been paid. The remainder have been allowed to remain, and it is unlikely that they will be disturbed at all. I may add that I am informed by my hon. friend that every labourer on the estate was given an opportunity of taking a portion of the land, and that although he only entertained applications from those who lived in Burwell or the immediate neighbourhood it has been quite impossible to satisfy all their demands.

MR. H. H. MARKS: Does the £389 comprise the whole amount of compensation to be divided among the thirty-nine labourers and their families who have been disturbed?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: I may say that the hon. Member for Newmarket has acted in a most generous way in agreeing to provide all compensation provided for on the scheme drawn up by the Office of Woods and Forests. He left the matter entirely to that body.

MR. H. H. MARKS: The hon. Baronet has not answered my Question.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): Is it proposed to carry out any more wholesale evictions on Crown Lands?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: There have been no wholesale evictions.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: How many of the dispossessed labourers were settled on the newly created holdings?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY asked for notice of that Question.

### The Official Debates.

*MR. HAZLETON (Galway N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if he will state the reason why, in the official reports of the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament, the speeches of Members of the Upper House are invariably reported in the first person, whereas this, with few exceptions, is not the practice in reporting the proceedings of this House: whether the speeches of Members of the Upper House are reported verbatim, and if so, what is the extra cost involved; and whether steps will be taken to have a similar method adopted in the Upper House to that which exists in this House.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire N.): I regret that I can add nothing to the Answer which I gave the hon. Member to the same Question on the 30th July last.†

### King's Park, Stirling.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Government have yet come to a decision with regard to the feuing for building purposes of a portion of the King's Park and Knot, Stirling.

Mr. McKENNA: The Question is still under consideration.

*Mr. MORTON: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that an advertisement appeared in a Scottish paper on Saturday offering, what seemed to be the site referred to, for feuing?

Mr. McKENNA: The matter is not yet settled and is still under consideration.

### The National Gallery.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been directed to the fact that a number of photographic firms have established stalls for the sale of reproductions of national pictures on the ground floor of the National Gallery; and if he can state what rent is paid by those firms?

Mr. McKENNA: In three cases the trustees and director of the National Gallery have authorised the sale of photographs of pictures in the collection in the outer Hall of the Gallery. No rent is paid for this permission.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY: Is not a source of revenue being overlooked?

Mr. McKENNA: This is primarily a matter for the Trustees of the National Gallery. I will consult them about it however.

### Rex v. Blackler.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has received the Report of the proceedings in the case of Rex *v.* Blackler, what action he proposes to take to recompense the defendant for the loss he has suffered in consequence of these proceedings; and whether he will lay upon the Table the correspondence which has passed between the Solicitor to the Treasury and the parties concerned in this case.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.): I may call the attention of the hon. Member to the answer I gave in July last.‡ This defendant was acquitted after being tried by a jury, although he had been committed to take his trial by the unanimous order of a bench of nine magistrates. A claim for compensation has been received by the Treasury, who have come to the conclusion that it cannot be entertained. With regard to the production of the correspondence to the Director of Public Prosecutions, such correspondence has always been held to be strictly privileged, and in my opinion it is exceedingly important in the public interest that it should retain that character. I am not therefore prepared to advise that it be laid.

### Prosecutions under the Corrupt Practices Act.

Lord R. CECIL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has considered the report of the proceedings in the case of Rex *v.* Fowler, what action he proposes to take to recompense Fowler for the injury and loss he has suffered by these proceedings; whether he will lay upon the Table of this House the correspondence in the matter which has passed between the Solicitor to the Treasury and the Liberal election agent named Huckley; and whether he proposes to take any steps to prosecute any persons connected with this case for perjury.

I beg also to ask Mr. Attorney-General how many prosecutions have been instituted by the Director of Public Prosecutions for alleged offences against the Corrupt Practices Acts at the late general election; whether in any case the accused was alleged to have acted in the interests of a Liberal candidate; whether any of the prosecutions were successful; and whether any, and, if so, how many prosecutions of a similar character are pending.

Sir JOHN WALTON said that in the case referred to in the first Question there was a mass of evidence given on both sides, and the magistrates accepted that for the defence and dismissed the prosecution. The correspondence could not be produced as it was of a privileged character. As to the second Question, he was informed that six prosecutions had been instituted by the Director of Public Prosecutions for alleged offences against the Corrupt Practices Acts at the late general election, and that only in one case had the prosecution been attended with success. It was a very difficult matter to prosecute successfully in cases involving political feeling. He rather thought the Question cast some reflection on the Public Prosecutor; he would therefore like to say that immediately after the general election he gave instructions for prosecutions to be instituted in all cases where there was substantial evidence so as to vindicate the law. That had been done with the result he had mentioned. It was asked in how many of the cases the accused had acted in the interest of the Liberal candidates. His answer to that was that the Public Prosecutor was not a person who interested himself in the politics of the persons concerned.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxii, 408.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxii., 1333.

LORD R. CECIL: May I ask whether in point of fact the prosecution in the case referred to in my Question was not abandoned practically at the dictation of Counsel for the Treasury? Did he not practically invite the magistrates to dismiss the case?

SIR JOHN WALTON: I believe he took the view that his case had practically broken down.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Is it the habit of the Treasury Solicitor to employ Radical election agents to collect evidence for the Treasury in these cases?

SIR JOHN WALTON: The Public Prosecutor does not concern himself with the politics of the gentlemen he employs, and I certainly have no such concern.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: But is it not a fact that the Radical election agent who assisted the hon. Member for Reigate was employed by the Treasury with a full knowledge of his occupation?

SIR JOHN WALTON: I have no knowledge of that.

LORD R. CECIL: May I as a matter of personal explanation say I did not intend to cast the slightest reflection on the Public Prosecutor?

### An Alleged Political Eviction.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked the Attorney-General a Question of which he had given private notice — namely, whether his attention had been called to the action of a house agent and King's tax collector at Old Ford and Bow, who had given his tenant notice to quit for exhibiting a board in his front garden advocating the claims of a Labour candidate at an approaching borough council election, and what action it was proposed to take to prevent this form of intimidation being continued.

SIR JOHN WALTON: The conduct the hon. Member complains of, however regrettable it may be, does not, I fear, constitute any breach of the statutes relating to corruption. A threat in connection with the giving of a vote might infringe the Corrupt Practices Act; but I am not aware of any provision by which it becomes a breach of the law for a landlord to threaten a tenant with eviction for exhibiting a political placard. The hon. Member only gave notice of his Question a short time ago. I will consider the matter further. If a breach of the law has been committed, I will see that the necessary steps are taken.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that as the election would take place on Thursday he would repeat the Question to-morrow.

### Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act.

MR. MENZIES: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the application of the Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act, 1900, is causing, in its incidence, annoyance and discontent amongst small feuars in Scotland who were not aware that they could be made, under this Act, liable to this assessment; that, on at least one estate in Scotland, leaseholders who hold building leases are being assessed on the full value of their improvements, which does not appear to have been contemplated in the Bill; and whether he can give any date upon which the Government will bring forward a Bill to relieve the country altogether from this mediæval imposition.

I beg also to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the fact that small feuars and leaseholders who have been forced to pay assessments under the Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act, 1900, have apparently no mutual rights of ownership, as valued rent heritors have, over these manses and churches which their payments have helped to build; that the valued rent heritors, in fact, claim the whole ownership, and allocate all the seats entirely amongst themselves; and whether he intends to take any steps in the matter.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): My attention has already been drawn to the state of opinion described by my hon. friend, and as he is aware, a Return has been ordered by the House and is now under preparation, showing the Ecclesiastical Assessments levied for these purposes during the ten years ending 15th May, 1905. The relations of small feuars and leaseholders to valued rent heritors is stated in my hon. friend's second Question with substantial accuracy. I can at present name no such date as is suggested, but I shall be glad to have any further information such as is offered by my hon. friend in the second portion of his first Question.

### Irish Evicted Tenants.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can inform the House of the progress made by the Estates Commissioners in the reinstatement of the evicted tenants up to the present date; what are the causes of the practical breakdown of the Land Act of 1903 in this vital matter; and what steps the Government propose to take to remove these obstacles to a settlement of the Irish Land Question.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): Applications to the number of 5,912 have been received from evicted tenants or their representatives. Of these applications, 1,047 have been finally dealt with, 505 having been rejected as untenable, while the evicted tenants were restored in the remaining 542 cases. Of these 542 tenants, 381 were restored by the landlords on the sale of their estates under the Land Purchase Act, the tenants being, in most cases, assisted by grants from the Estates Commissioners for the equipment of their farms. The balance of 161 tenants have been either restored by the Estates Commissioners on their old holdings on purchase of the estates, or placed in new holdings provided for them. Under the former regulations, the Estates Commissioners were not allowed to negotiate with owners of untenanted land for the purchase of it with the view to providing farms for evicted tenants, and they were also prohibited from proposing the reinstatement of evicted tenants on a holding unless the estate on which the holding was situated had itself been proposed for sale. Both these restrictions were removed by the regulations of 13th February, 1906, and subsequently, in May last, the Estates Commissioners were given a special staff of six inspectors for the purpose of promoting this work. Since that date the inspectors have inquired into applications from 1,285 evicted tenants. Of these, 272 cases have been rejected; in 444 cases the landlord refused to allow the inspectors to visit the lands; in 242 cases the present occupants of the evicted holdings were unwilling to vacate them, some having purchased under the Land Purchase Act; in 100 cases terms have been proposed for the restoration of the tenants, and in eighty-six cases the tenants have been reinstated. In the balance further inquiries are being made. I do not consider that the Act has practically broken down, but its operation has no doubt been much slower than was expected, partly owing to the impediments interposed, until the beginning of the present year, by the regulations then withdrawn, and partly to the following causes, viz: (1) The unwillingness of tenants who hold evicted farms to relinquish them in favour of the former holders. (2) The difficulty of finding, especially in Ulster and Munster, untenanted land which the owner will consent to sell. (3) Local opposition which is sometimes offered to the introduction of strangers. Local public opinion might do much to remove this obstacle. (4) Objection taken by landlords in whose hands evicted farms are to the giving up of those farms for the reinstatement of evicted tenants. These are the main results that have so far emerged from the inquiries now in progress, which it must be remembered are in the nature of preliminary investigations to ascertain wherein the obstacles really lie. These inquiries are being energetically prosecuted in the same way, and it is intended to obtain additions to the staff so as to deal with the remaining cases if possible within the next six months. Until the whole of the evidence is before the Government, and until the administrative measures taken and capable of being taken by the Estates Commissioners have matured, I am not in a position to state whether further legislation upon the matter will be necessary, but that aspect of the Question will continue to receive the most careful attention of the Irish Government.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Does the right hon. Gentleman seriously mean to convey that one cause of the delay is the fact that the Commissioners are engaged in preliminary investigations, although the Act has been in operation for three years?

MR. BRYCE: Yes, Sir. I mean to convey that since the restrictions in operation in February have been removed it has been necessary to approach the subject in a much more systematic and complete manner than hitherto, and the time occupied by these investigations has necessarily delayed the progress of reinstatement. But we look upon these investigations, which are nearly at an end, as work of permanent value, and of great service in enabling the process of reinstatement to proceed more rapidly.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: This is a matter of such extraordinary and vital importance, affecting, as it does, questions of law and order as well as of land settlement, that I must ask the leave of the House to move the adjournment.

### Telegraph Offices at Irish Tidal Ports.

MR. MOONEY (Newry): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can state at what, if any British tidal ports he has recently curtailed the hours during which the post offices are open for telegraphic and other public business; if he can likewise state at what Irish tidal ports he has recently curtailed public postal facilities; on what grounds, if any, has this change been made; in cases where such change has been made, have the local municipal or harbour authorities been consulted; if not, will he state on what information he has acted; and whether in view of the fact that in certain cases where such changes have been made the local authorities allege that serious inconveniences have arisen, without any compensating advantage to the Revenue or any one, he will put himself in communication with such authorities, with a view to ascertaining the exact facts in the matter and remedying the inconvenience which is alleged to have arisen.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: It has recently been decided to close the post offices at Newry, Dundalk, and Drogheda at 8 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. The Returns of counter transactions which were taken for some long time prior to this decision, showed that the amount of business transacted at the counters of these offices after 8 p.m. was insignificant, and not sufficient to warrant the expense of keeping the offices open to an exceptionally late hour, or of imposing the late hours on the staff. Telegrams can, of course, still be sent after 8 p.m. on payment of the usual late fees, and I cannot find that the curtailment of postal facilities has caused, or is likely to cause, any practical inconvenience, and there seems to be no sufficient grounds for granting facilities to the towns in question which are denied to other towns of equal or greater importance.

MR. MOONEY: Did not the right hon. Gentleman receive representations from Irish local authorities on the subject.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Yes, but the decision was based on the records of the transactions.

MR. MOONEY: On *ex parte* statements.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: No, on the official records.

### The South African Committee of Inquiry.

MR. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he will lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the self-government proposals sent to the South African Colonies in the summer of this year.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The mission of the Committee sent to South Africa was essentially of a confidential character, and the Report deals not only with the Transvaal Constitution, but with that of the Orange River Colony. His Majesty's Government do not propose to consider the question of its publication until after the latter Constitution has been determined and declared to Parliament.

### Wireless Telegraphy.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask a Question of which I had given private notice—namely, whether the British delegates at the international conference on wireless telegraphy in Berlin are empowered to sign a binding agreement on the part of this country, or whether opportunities for discussion in Parliament will first be given.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The delegates at this conference are acting under instructions from His Majesty's Government, and any convention agreed to will be reserved for subsequent ratification. I can say nothing at present as to the discussions in Parliament.

---

## IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—ADJOURNMENT.

MR. JOHN REDMOND, Member for Waterford, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the failure of the Irish Government and the Estate Commissioners to carry out the intentions and policy of Parliament by the restoration of Irish evicted tenants to their homes, as disclosed in the Report of the Estate Commissioners and in the statement of the Chief Secretary;" and, the pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight this evening.

---

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

*VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) moved an Amendment to Clause 1 to provide that a voter should merely be required to cause to be delivered in the form prescribed by Order in Council, his notice of selection, and should not, according to the original drafting of the Bill be called upon personally to send that notice. The noble Lord said that as far as he understood at the present time there was no provision in the Bill as to how notice should be sent. He would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill what the position of the voter was when a notice had been sent but had not been received. This appeared to him to be a very important Question, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would enlighten them. If a voter voted under such circumstances would he be a criminal? His Amendment would remove one of the ambiguities with which, to his mind, the Bill at the present time was full. The words he proposed would relieve the voter of a great many difficulties and would also strengthen the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the word 'send' and to insert the words 'cause to be delivered in a form to be prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) replied that he did not think the Amendment of the noble Lord was necessary, inasmuch as a provision would be made in the Order in Council by which a receipt would be sent to the voter notified by the clerk. He was quite sure the noble Lord would not wish to cause unnecessary trouble to the voter notified. He (Mr. Harcourt) would certainly be unwilling to accept the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said that his noble friend's Amendment suggested that the obligation should not be laid upon the voter to send in his own notice, but the clerk should cause the notice to be sent in on the form prescribed. Was it to be optional for the voter either to send his notice or cause it to be sent? There was no Party question involved in this matter; both sides of the Committee were anxious to know how the machinery of the Bill would operate. This obligation imposed upon a voter, however, was a very serious matter, for it was an obligation which many would be very unwilling to undertake. A claimant himself knew very little of the means by which his vote was obtained. Under this Bill, in future, if a man made his own claim he would be liable to a penalty, but the Amendment of his noble friend would remove this difficulty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said there were really two points before the Committee—the one referred to by his right hon. friend and the other referred to by his noble friend. The only one which had been dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman in his reply was whether the notice of selection should be in the form prescribed by Order in Council, or whether the person sending the notification might send it in any form he liked. The second point was as to whether the whole thing could be carried out by agents or organisers, or whether the labour, responsibility, and care required should rest on the shoulders of each individual voter. He thought it would be better for the Committee to restrict themselves to the first point, and postpone the consideration of the second point till a later Amendment was moved.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had stated that a receipt would be sent to the voter for the notification of selection. If a man sent notice and received no receipt, would he come within the purview of the Act?

MR. HARCOURT said that on this particular point he had given to the voter the greatest amount of latitude. He thought it would be a pity to tie him down in any way, or to subject him to any inconvenience.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE CHAIRMAN: In regard to all the proposals to insert words after "send," I think the whole point of how the notice is to be sent or delivered should be taken together. I mean that these various Amendments overlap one another, and it is impossible to debate one without infringing on the others.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) moved an Amendment to provide that a person desiring to select a constituency would have the option to send "or cause to be sent" a notice of his selection. He explained that this Amendment would be necessary in view of another which he proposed to move at a later stage, to leave out the words "signed by him." In connection with this particular matter they had to consider the object which the measure was intended to carry out. He understood from what had been said by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that the real object of the Bill was to prevent anyone from exercising the franchise more than once. According to the wording of the Bill it was necessary that the voter in making his selection of a constituency should send a notice "signed by himself" intimating the particular property or residence in respect of which he desired to vote. He wished to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that a very large number of electors in this country would be prohibited from exercising the franchise if this clause was carried as it stood, because whether, as was the case at the present time, a very large amount of the work of registration was done by political associations, or whether the work was done by the individual, the onus here rested upon each plural voter to decide for himself and to sign with his own hand the paper notifying the constituency selected. Those who had most votes would be those who engaged solicitors to look after their various affairs and especially the matters with regard to their property. He held that it would be a great hardship that those voters should be obliged to exercise this nomination personally, and not be in a position to do so through their own trusted agents who had been conducting their affairs in the past. Another serious point arose in connection with constituencies where the balance of power was very narrow. He had in his mind's eye constituencies where twenty, forty, or fifty votes generally turned the election one way or another. This clause as it stood lent itself in these cases to very grave abuse by anyone who cared to simply fill up a notice paper in the name of a voter and have his name put in the register in respect of property which he held in a constituency. The notice being a forgery, the voter might at an election time ask for a voting paper in another constituency and immediately become subject to the serious penalties set out in the Bill. In many instances men of the humbler class who were not accustomed to the placing of their names on the register would find themselves in the peculiar position of having all at once to take up this matter of selection and signing with their own hand the notice of selection. By making the alterations which he proposed in the wording of the clause they would enable the voter who had two or more qualifications to exercise the power of selection through his solicitor or some other person authorised to act on his behalf. A voter might be seriously ill, or away travelling abroad, and if the clause were amended as proposed his instructions could be carried out by his agent. Supposing the clause stood in its present form, a very large number of electors would be deprived of the power of exercising their votes at an election. It was not the voters who could be chased hither and thither by one Party or another at election times who would be affected in the way he had indicated, but those who were outside the dictation of either of the Parties—those whom one was anxious to retain on the register. The Committee knew how very varied were the questions which came to be discussed at election times, and it was the man who did not follow the Party hacks whose voice was most necessary for the solving of these questions. It was those men who did not desire to press themselves to the forefront of political affairs, but were always ready to come forward and vote when an election took place, and to give an unbiassed record of the feeling of the country who would be prevented from voting by not having attended themselves to the selection of a constituency.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'send,' to insert the words 'cause to be sent.'"—(*Captain Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR raised a point of order. Two quite distinct questions had been raised by this Amendment. One was as to the form or shape in which the notification was to be given, and the other whether the notice was to be sent by post or otherwise. But by the suggestion of the Chairman these two questions could not be discussed separately; the hon. Gentleman treated them as more or less one question. There was another point, viz.: whether the sending of the notice must be done by the individual action of the voter himself or by an agent? All he asked was whether, under the ruling from the Chair, there could be a general discussion on these questions? The latter question was raised in a very precise form by an Amendment on the Paper in the name of the right hon. and learned Member for Dublin University.

*THE CHAIRMAN confessed that the suggestion he had thrown out was under a misapprehension; but he would try and make the present situation perfectly clear. He thought that the hon. and gallant Gentleman was going to deal with the matter of how the notice was to be sent; but he had not dealt with that question at all. He had associated with the Amendment actually moved a subsequent consequential Amendment which involved the question of agency. The Amendment of the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Dublin University seemed to him to raise a very similar point to that which the hon. and gallant Gentleman had introduced. If the discussion were to follow the line taken by the hon. and gallant Member it would not be possible to allow a further discussion on the Amendment of the right hon Member for Dublin University.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the ruling of the Chairman was perfectly clear, but the result would be that if his hon. and gallant friend pressed the discussion of his Amendment and his consequential Amendment, the Committee could not discuss the Amendment of the right hon. and learned Member for Dublin University, although it raised a broader question than that of the hon. and gallant Member.

MR. HARCOURT said that the actual point raised by the hon. and gallant Member in what he stated was his consequential Amendment was really not necessary, on the principle *qui facit per alium facit per se*, because it was included in the words that a person desiring to select a voting constituency "must send or cause to be sent a notice of his selection to be signed by him." Subsection (3) (*b*) stated that if any person "sends or causes to be sent a notice of his selection of a voting constituency without withdrawing any notice which is in operation in any other constituency" he should be guilty of an illegal practice, etc. There never had been any intention of compelling the voter to deliver the notice paper himself at the door of the town clerk or clerk to the county council or anything of that sort. But it was absolutely essential that the voter should have a notice paper brought to him and signed by him, otherwise there might be bogus demands for selection without any notice having been put on the register. Another question raised by the hon. and gallant Member was the case of a foreign traveller or the illness of a voter which would prevent the notice being sent on the appointed day. He had already promised to bring up a clause to meet the case of a person who was on foreign travel or was ill, and who subsequently discovered that he was registered elsewhere. He could not accept the Amendment of the hon. and gallant Gentleman to leave out the words "signed by him;" otherwise it would lead to personation. But he had no objection to accept the words "cause to be sent."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said he quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that if they were to have any form of notice at all the voter should sign it himself. If not, the door would be left open to all sorts of fraud. On the other hand, if the clause were retained as it stood, many people would not take the trouble to sign a notice-paper and hand it to an agent who would send it in to the proper officer.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked, on a point of order, whether or not it had been decided that the voter must sign his notice-paper himself.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that it was quite right that the Committee should know exactly where they were. The Government had stated that they did not object to introduce the words "cause to be sent," but these words were important as an introduction to his hon. and gallant friend's second Amendment. He ventured to suggest that they should introduce here the innocuous words "cause to be sent," and then they could come to the real issue when the hon. and gallant Member moved his next Amendment.

MR. HARCOURT said he accepted the words "cause to be sent," but with the warning that he must be careful to introduce similar words in subsequent parts of the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) moved an Amendment providing that the terms of the notice should be in a statutory form to be provided by the overseers or by an Order in Council or in some other way. At any rate, the form should be identical in all cases. It was not in the power of an agricultural labourer to draw a proper notice of selection which would pass the scrutiny of a town clerk or clerk to a county council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'notice,' to insert the words 'in a statutory form to be provided by the overseers.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he had already promised to insert a statutory form, but he was not inclined to inflict upon the plural voter the inconvenience of using that form. A simple letter would be all that was necessary.

MR. WALTER LONG said he shared very much the hon. Gentleman's opinion as to the practical difficulties which would arise in connection with this Bill. Many people upon whom these duties would be put would be either undesirous or unwilling to carry them out, and to inflict upon them what was really a penal law would be a great hardship upon the poorer classes of the country. The greatest freedom should be given to these unfortunate people, because what the Government was doing was to impose upon the industrious man who had saved a little money and had got two or three votes a responsibility in regard to selection which he had not hitherto had. It would be better if his hon. friend did not press his Amendment, and left to these poor people the small limit of liberty which the Government were prepared to give them.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. FELL moved an Amendment providing that a person desiring to select a voting constituency must send a notice to the clerk of the county council or town clerk of his selection, and a list of the other constituencies in which he is registered, and a form of renunciation of his right to vote in such other constituencies. This Amendment was, he believed, a most important one, for if it was required that the voter should send this notice then his object would be attained. That was to make all the registers in this country more complete and more exact. It would also save trouble to agents and returning officers and also expense at elections. If the registers were made up in this way and these voters were "starred" they would, he believed, be not only at the disposal of the candidates, the agents and the returning officers in the districts, but they would be available for the purposes of those interested all over the country. He believed that there would be very grave danger to these plural voters if they applied on the other registers without any notice being placed against their names that they had votes in other constituencies. In the case of a borough with 10,000 voters, and 1,000 plural voters, possibly 500 might select the borough to vote in and 500 the county. There would therefore be 500 names "starred" on each list. The expenses of the returning officers were regulated by the number of electors, and unless some step of the kind he proposed were taken he did not see how the number of electors could be ascertained in any particular place. The expenses of candidates were also regulated by the number of voters, and in future it appeared that the candidates would be allowed considerably more expenses than the number of voters in their constituencies would justify under this Bill, because every constituency in the country would have a list of more voters than there were in it. If the voter sent in the list which he suggested the town clerk should, he thought, put a blue star against his name, and that would prevent not only expense but the grave danger of personation. It would save the expense of serving notices upon all these people, of sending them the candidates' address and the polling cards, although in 500 or 1,000 cases such a course was absolutely useless. Moreover these documents were in the nature of invitations to a man to vote who had not a vote, because a man got a card with his polling number and an intimation that he had a right to vote. In a well known book dealing with election law, Mr. Lloyd stated that a grave difficulty arose with regard to dead voters, and when an election was on it was almost impossible to prevent personation. Under this Bill they had to deal with thousands and thousands of people who were in the position of being dead to the constituency. Coupling that with the statement of an astute election agent that before nine o'clock he had polled all the "deads" in his constituency, the Committee would see the danger they were running in regard to personation. Of course there were cases in which a man would get a dual qualification after the time for sending notices, but that was a small danger compared with the other. Some people said they did not know what votes they had, but he thought that was an illusory statement. He had three votes; he knew where they were and would be perfectly able to send in a notice of selection. He ought to be able to expect to find a mark against his name at the place where he could not vote, and if this course were followed as he suggested a large amount of personation would be done away with. Under the system proposed by the Government a clever election agent would be able to render it impossible to conduct an election without the risk of a scrutiny.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'selection,' to insert the words 'and a list of the other constituencies in which he is registered and a form of renunciation of his right to vote in such other constituencies.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he could not accept the proposal, and asked what would have been said if he had made such a proposal as this. He should have been told that he was inflicting upon the pauper pluralist every outrage that it was possible he could inflict.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked what was a pauper pluralist?

MR. HARCOURT said he meant a working-man pluralist. He, however, did not think it was really necessary to argue the question seriously. He admitted that this proposal was a counsel of perfection, as he should extremely like to see every plural voter "starred" in all the places in which he could not vote. No doubt it was a blot upon the Bill that it did not so provide, but he came to the conclusion that that was not a liability which ought to be put upon the plural voter, because if it was imposed there ought to be put upon him for not making the return some penalty which would seem somewhat harsh, as a man was often put upon a register without his knowledge. It had been said that this Bill was going to lead to wholesale personation. [AN HON. MEMBER: That is true.] He believed it would do nothing of the sort, and if that was the view of hon. Members opposite they ought to be very cautious about asking for any reduction in the penalties now being imposed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR agreed that this Amendment would throw too great a burden upon the ratepayers, but there was one point his hon. friend had raised to which he would like to refer. He had pointed out that the limit of a candidate's expenses at any election depended upon the number of electors on the register. He wished to know whether the persons who were not qualified to vote because they were pluralists counted for that purpose under the Corrupt Practices Act. There might be some constituencies in which the number of persons on the register was far in excess of the number qualified to vote. He thought that the scale should be framed not upon the number of persons on the register, but according to the number entitled to vote. He would like to know if that sound policy was going to be carried out under this Bill.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE pointed out that there were many registers at the present time which contained hundreds of duplicate voters, but they could not vote without running the risk of the penalties imposed under the Act. The maximum scale counted all these, and, although in some constituencies there would be still more "dead heads" added by the present Bill, yet it was impossible to deal with either. No means existed of officially discovering who were these voters that the right hon. Gentleman wished not to count.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked the Committee to take as an example the constituency which he represented, containing over 30,000 electors. A very large number of them were duplicate voters who voted in the City of London, and who also had votes for their residences outside the city. If those voters elected to vote for their residences and not for the city, it was quite evident that the scale of expenses in the city, being based upon the number of voters upon the register, would be extremely distorted and the discrepancy would be far more than the few hundreds which had been referred to by the right hon. Baronet. He thought it would amount to many thousands, and the whole purpose and object of the Corrupt Practices Act would be defeated.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) hoped his hon. friend would not press this Amendment. As the Leader of the Opposition had stated, this proposal would put a great burden upon the elector by requiring him to remember all the constituencies for which he had a vote. Personally he preferred that the voter should not have to make any selection, but the Committee had decided otherwise. If the elector was obliged to make a selection they ought not to make it such a burden upon him. This Amendment would not carry out the object his hon. friend had in view.

MR. HARCOURT thought the right hon. Gentleman had fallen into the mistake of treating the maximum expenses as if they were the minimum. Of course the maximum expenditure was not one which was bound to be incurred.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought the right hon. Gentleman had missed the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition. It was quite true that none of them were bound to spend the maximum allowed by the Corrupt Practices Act, but Parliament in its wisdom had laid down that any expenditure exceeding an amount in a certain ratio to the number of electors was illegal. He thought Parliament intended the number of electors to be the number of people actually entitled to vote, but in the case which had been cited the number of electors on the register would be enormously greater than the number entitled to vote. By the new Bill Parliament would be defeating the intention under the present Act, and would be making it legal to spend a much higher sum in proportion to the number of electors eligible to record their votes than under the Corrupt Practices Act. He agreed that they could not deal with this matter by the Amendment which had been moved. He wished to point out that he had given notice of a new clause which would deal with the same point in another way. He thought the objects of his hon. friend commanded sympathy, and even the right hon. Gentleman opposite had stated that he would gladly carry them out if he could. He trusted that the new clause that he should move later on would give the right hon. Gentleman an opportunity of carrying out his good intentions.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said the great object of this Amendment was that the voter on the register who was not going to use his vote should be marked in some way. It was quite clear that if a voter had got to make some selection the only place where a selection would have any notice taken of it would be the constituency to which it was sent. If the Committee did not adopt this Amendment there would be no mark on the register of the different constituencies where the voter was not going to vote, and the result would be that out-voters would appear on the register without any mark as being perfectly entitled to vote although, as a matter of fact, they would not be entitled to vote because they had selected some other constituency. The result would be that the returning officer's expenses would be very much increased. The returning officer had to provide polling booths, presiding officers, clerks and machinery of all sorts and descriptions, and in a constituency which he had in mind it would cost almost twice as much to carry out that official machinery than would be the case if there was some way of marking off the voters who were not going to vote in that division. The voters who were on the list would have to be canvassed, and an immense amount of trouble and expense would be incurred dealing with a large number of voters who were not going to vote at all. Supposing a voter turned up in a constituency which he had not selected, and claimed a vote. There was nothing on the list to show that he was not entitled to vote. His name would be on the register, and there would be no mark and no notice to invite the presiding officer to put the stipulated question to him; in fact there would be nothing to prevent him from voting. He agreed that this Amendment was impracticable and would be a very great burden. He would have much preferred arguing in favour of his own Amendment, which had been ruled out of order, to the effect that notice should be given to the constituency in which the voter did not intend to exercise the franchise. Supposing a voter had two qualifications and had to send a notice of selection. If, at the same time, he sent notice to the constituencies in which he was not going to vote, all those evils which had been complained of would be cured, because that would automatically reduce those registers, and reduce the expenses of electioneering. There was one final argument which he ventured to put before the Committee. Surely it was necessary to know the number of voters in any given constituency. As long as they permitted, by using the machinery of this Bill, the registers to contain the names of those who were not entitled to vote, so long would it remain impossible to tell what the actual number of voters in any constituency was. For these reasons, whilst he could not support the Amendment in the form in which it was put, he did urge upon the Government that they should take into consideration the absolute necessity, if this Bill was to be made at all perfect, of having some mark against the names of people who were not entitled to vote.

Question put, and negatived.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) moved an Amendment requiring the notice to be sent by post in a form which he proposed to move on the consideration of the schedule. After what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill he was not particular whether it was sent by post, post free, or otherwise. What he desired was that the Bill should provide a form that might or might not be used, and that it should be witnessed for one thing; otherwise there would be nothing to prevent bogus claims being sent in wholesale. Then he would suggest that the form should be sent in duplicate, and that a receipt should be given at the foot of the notice, with a declaration by the town clerk or clerk to the council county that the notice was in order and that the name had been duly starred on the register of voters for the particular constituency. He suggested that this model form should be inserted in the Bill, so that election agents and others might know what the clerk expected to receive.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle), rising on a point of order, asked if the Committee had not quite recently had a discussion relating to this question on an Amendment which had been rejected.

THE CHAIRMAN did not know which Amendment the hon. Gentleman alluded to, but he thought this Amendment was clearly in order. It was understood that such an Amendment might be brought forward.

SIR WILLIAM BULL said there was no reason why the voter should not use his own form or write a letter to the clerk if he so desired. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, after the word 'selection,' to insert the words, 'by post in the form set out in the Schedule hereto.'"—(*Sir William Bull.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT thought the hon. Member must have been out of the House when he promised that there should be a form in the schedule as guide, and that there should be provision for a receipt to be sent to a voter. He could not accept the words "by post," because he did not want to limit the voter to that particular method of conveyance. With regard to the question of witnesses, he thought that would be inflicting additional labour on the voter, and as he left the voter to write a letter if he so pleased, he thought the suggestion of the hon. Member would involve a great deal of inconvenience.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): Would the form be obtainable at a Post Office?

MR. HARCOURT: At the town clerk's office.

MR. HICKS BEACH asked whether it would not be more convenient if it were obtainable at any Post Office. It would surely be a great convenience to the working-class plural voters, of whom the right hon. Gentleman himself said there was a large number.

THE CHAIRMAN said the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had stated that he was going to do certain things, and when they were done would be the time to ask these questions.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) understood that the town clerk or the clerk to the county council would have forms which the voter might obtain, but that he might send his notice on a sheet of Paper if he so desired. He did not often agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite, but he thought his proposal was the simplest and best way.

Question put, and negatived.

CAPTAIN CRAIG moved to leave out the words "signed by him." He desired to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman once more the importance of bearing in mind the fact that the Bill as it stood would be distinctly in favour of the man who had one vote for one particular place as against the man who had two or more votes. According to this clause the man with several votes would have to take precautions to see that he marked one of them, whereas the man with only one vote had an advantage in that his vote was looked after entirely for him.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 17 and 18 to leave out the words 'signed by him.'"—(*Captain Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. JOHN ELLIS, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said the Government could not possibly accept this Amendment. If the words "signed by him" were left out it might lead to all kinds of personation. If the claimant put his name upon the claim that could not occur. It was but little to ask. The Committee would see the signature was all that was required. The Amendment if agreed to would give rise to all sorts of difficulties, and therefore it was impossible to accept it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE thought his right hon. friend was not quite right. Although those words were in every Act of Parliament relating to claims for registration, in practice, as he had stated on a previous occasion, the authority and directions were assumed and frequently allowed in cases where it was against the strongly expressed wish of the person supposed to be making the claim. He had brought with him the claims to which he had previously referred arising in the townships of Manchester, which, although they were supposed to be signed by the persons claiming, were all in fact signed by the clerks. He had also brought the ownership claim, signed by a clerk after it was publicly stated by the voter that he had refused to sign and that the claim was sent in against his wish.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked, as an ardent student of the registration laws, whether the right hon. Baronet would further enlighten the Committee as to what action was taken by the Courts when a document purporting to be signed by a man was found to be signed by somebody else.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said the inference which he drew from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman who had replied for the Government and those of the right. hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean was that this Bill should be postponed owing to the state of confusion in which the Government found itself. On a previous occasion the right hon. Baronet made an elaborate speech in favour of an Amendment with regard to a man having a right to vote in the district in which he resided. Having proved his case to demonstration the right hon. Baronet said he did not intend to divide the Committee upon the Amendment as it was obvious that his argument would cause an entire reconstruction of the Bill. Well, there was surely no objection to that. Where was the necessity for this haste? Was a general election or numerous by-elections so imminent as to make it necessary for a Bill of this kind to be hurried through?

MR. MADDISON (Burnley) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was in order in discussing on this Amendment the advisability of postponing the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the right hon. Gentleman is in order.

MR. LYTTELTON said he bowed to the Ruling of the Chair and would only ask some representative of the Government to reconcile the refusal of this Amendment with the statement that the words at present in the Bill were unnecessary.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said that when the Government inserted these words "signed by him" they intended them to be interpreted according to the ordinary usage of the English language. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had said with truth that in a number of cases it had been customary to accept documents not actually signed by the persons authorised to sign them, but signed by persons authorised by them. It was lax practice, and might be a very bad and loose interpretation, but it was the law, as would be seen by reference to the Municipal Registration Act of 1878, which dealt with the question of how declarations were to be made, and which stated that they might be accepted without proof of the signature of the claimant unless the revising barrister had good reason to doubt the genuineness of the signature. The distinction between those cases and the one under discussion was that in all those cases the matter was submitted to the judicial decision of the revising barrister, and therefore a certain amount of laxity could be allowed because, if there was reason for doubt, the case could be inquired into. In this case they were dealing with a ministerial officer, the town clerk, or the clerk of the peace, who had no such power as that possessed by the Revising Barrister. In such cases he thought it was right to require the signature of the voter himself.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said after what the right hon. Gentleman had stated he would repeat the question he recently put which the right hon. Gentleman then promised to consider. Would the Government reconsider the form laid down? The lodgers' case was different. The words "signed by him" were those of an ordinary claim, and in the Bill they had the word "notice." It was not "declaration" as in the lodger's case. There it was a witnessed declaration.

MR. ASQUITH said he did not himself see any special sanctity in a declaration that was not in a notice. The point, however, was well worthy of consideration, and he had promised to consider it, and he would consider it. But for the moment he was dealing with the distinction between the two cases. In this case the claims were sent in for a purely ministerial purpose.

MR. MOONEY (Newry) thought these words ought to be left in in order that there should not be a repetition of what happened two years ago in South Dublin. Then a number of claims were put in each purporting to be signed by the claimant, and the Revising Barrister was about to accept them when objection was taken to the form of signature. The Revising Barrister then said he could not go behind the signature. It was then proved that all those signatures were in the writing of one man. The claims were disallowed, and the agent who signed them was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for forgery. If these words were taken out of the Bill such claims would be allowed, and there would be no means of punishing the guilty person.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said there was a discrepancy between the statements made by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to the form in which notice of selection was to be given. He thought the two right hon. Gentlemen should lay their heads together and give the Committee a clear statement on the matter before the debate proceeded.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS suggested that words should be introduced to provide for the notice of selection being sent either by the voter or his agent. That would obviate the inconvenience which would otherwise be caused in the case of a person who from any reason could not send the notice.

MR. ASQUITH said his right hon. friend had already promised to introduce words providing for cases of illness.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS said he meant rather more than that.

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said the letters or notices would be sent to the town clerk or clerk of the county, but they would be subjected to no scrutiny whatever. If a forgery was committed how was it to be found out and how was the offender to be punished?

MR. ASQUITH said his right hon. friend had already promised to provide for an acknowledgment of the notice being sent to the person from whom the notice would proceed. That would, to a certain extent, prevent the possibility of names being forged. The sending of an acknowledgment by the town clerk or the clerk of the county council would be a considerable safeguard.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he had qualifications in Birmingham and London. If an acknowledgment was sent to his London address when he was out of town it was a hundred to one that it would not be forwarded to him because the letter would resemble a circular.

MR. ASQUITH said the right hon. Gentleman could arrange to have letters re-directed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said some kind of discretion should be exercised as to the letters to be redirected.

MR. ASQUITH said the Government were considering whether it was desirable to put in some words to make falsification of a notice of this kind a special offence.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said he was quite confused by the voluminous arguments which had been used in the discussion upon this Amendment. It seemed to him that it resolved itself into a question of whether the Bill as it stood—[Laughter and interruption from the MINISTERIALISTS]. He did not know what he had done to be subjected to that interruption. It appeared to him that the hon. Gentlemen on the other side were permitted to make speeches upon any subject, whether they knew anything about it or not, whilst on the Opposition side of the House, when hon. Members got up, they were subjected to all sorts of interruptions. It seemed to him that Free Traders were not prepared to allow free speech. The arguments apparently resolved themselves into whether the Amendment or the Bill as it stood was the more likely to leave the way open to fraud, and it distinctly seemed to him that under the Bill as it stood fraud was the more likely to arise. So far as he could see, there was no possible reason why if a person forged a signature he should ever be found out. When a person voted he did not sign his name on the ballot paper. There was no possible reason why forgery should be discovered, and the arguments which had been used, or rather the references given to cases which had already occurred where attempts had been made to forge signatures, showed there was very considerable danger under the Bill as it at present stood that signatures would be forged. Therefore he thought on the whole it was much better that the Committee should support the Amendment of his hon. friend.

SIR F. BANBURY said the Chancellor of the Exchequer had failed to answer the point raised by his hon. and gallant friend. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had said that the form of the notice would be optional, and he himself said that he would vote with the Government if that was so.

MR. ASQUITH said they would consider that point.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 315; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 340).

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hexhm
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshir
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A,
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St Pancras, N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth
Haworth, Arthur A.
Haze, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshir
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)

Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhamptn
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, SirC.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.(
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds,S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthn
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, HenryJ.(York, W. R.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudd rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gadiner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill,Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter,(Dublin,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Craig and Viscount Turnour.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University) moved to insert in sub-section (2) words which had been omitted probably by an oversight or by some fault of the draftsman, after "clerk of the County Council or town clerk," viz., the words "in the case of a University constituency the clerk of Convocation or other persons who are responsible." Reference was made in Clause 2 to the possible selection by an elector for a University constituency of that constituency as the one for which he desired to vote; but no direction was given in sub-section (2) that he should be required when he made that selection to send a notice paper to any one. It would be quite useless for him to send in a notice paper to a town clerk or a clerk of a county council. He desired to point out that members of Convocation of his own University were placed automatically on the register and a selection might cause very considerable inconvenience especially when the selection would have to be made some time before the election. Moreover the number of electors in a University constituency was likely to be considerably greater than the number of persons entitled to vote.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'clerk,' to insert the words 'in the case of a University constituency the clerk of Convocation or other persons who are responsible.'"—(*Sir Philip Magnus.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said there had been no omission of words from the clause or oversight on the part of the draftsman of the Bill. There were very few constituencies in the country that were not dealt with by the words "clerk of the county council or town clerk." But if the hon. Gentleman would refer to the end of Clause 3 he would see that an Order-in-Council might be made for prescribing the manner in which the name of a person selecting any constituency as his voting constituency was to be marked on the register, and applying the provisions of this Act to constituencies for which no register was made under the Registration Acts 1843 to 1891, or in which any officer was responsible for printing the parliamentary register other than the clerk of the county council or town clerk. That clause was specially meant to meet the case which the hon. Member had dealt with and entirely covered the Amendment he had proposed.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that he had put down an Amendment proposing to leave out the words "who is responsible for the printing of the parliamentary register," more to ask for information from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill than for any other purpose. He wanted to know why those words had been put into the clause. Was it not the case that the person always responsible for printing the parliamentary register was the town clerk in the case of a borough, and the clerk of the county council in the case of a county council? These words were therefore pure surplusage, and he understood that words of surplusage were invariably bad. If these officers were not always responsible, then surely there should be the responsible officers named in the Act. How was the ordinary voter to know that there might be any other persons except the town clerk or the clerk of the county council who could make up the register?

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that he had an Amendment which came before that of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Worcester, E.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN admitted that that was so.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that his Amendment was to insert after the words "clerk of the county council, or town clerk" the words, "or other officer." He did not propose this Amendment for the sake merely of verbally amending the Bill, but because it seemed to him that there was a considerable amount of confusion as to where these notices were to be sent. Anyone acquainted with the machinery of preparing the lists of voters knew that down to 25th August in each year the town clerk in a borough and the clerk of a county council had practically little to do with the register at all. The position was that the list which was subsequently to become the register was prepared by the overseers. In the case of boroughs the town clerk had merely to make up the list of freemen, which was a comparatively trifling matter. There were a large number of statutes which dealt with questions of dates, who was to mark up the lists, and how they were to be published. The preparation of the lists was not in the hands of the town clerks in boroughs or of the clerks to county councils. It seemed to him that all those notices should be sent to the people responsible for preparing the lists, and those people were the overseers. The notice should not be sent to the clerk of the county council or the town clerk, who had nothing to do with the details of the register, and had no power to alter it, but be sent to the people who actually had the repsonsibility and the custody of the lists. The Revising Barristers sat early in September until the 12th October, and during that time the validity of this notice could be gone into. He did not wish to press his Amendment if the Government did not want to accept it, but he thought that if the Government were going to provide for these notices at all they should provide that they should be given not to the people who had not got the control of the list, but to those who had control. The Government might well accept the words which he suggested, "or other officer," and it would certainly avoid a difficulty which he could see would otherwise arise.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the second word 'clerk,' to insert the words 'or other officer.'"—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

**Mr. HARCOURT** said the hon. Member seemed to think that notification of selection by a voter should be sent to the person making up the register, but it was to avoid that that he put these words in, as his whole point was that this was a question of typography, and had nothing to do with the making up of the registers.

**Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD** wished to know whether the hon. Gentleman suggested that these selections were to be sent in under no authority, and that no authority had any right to say whether they were valid or invalid.

**Mr. HARCOURT** said that certainly there was no authority to refuse them at all supposing they were in order. A man made his selection and sent it in to the person who was responsible for printing the register. The man who was responsible was the person responsible for printing the register.

**Sir FRANCIS LOWE** (Birmingham, Edgbaston) inquired whether there was any person responsible for the printing of the register other than the clerk to the county council or the town clerk. Nobody else but those officers were specified, and it seemed to him that there was some very clumsy drafting in the Bill when the town clerk and the clerk to the county council alone were mentioned in this clause, while the "other officer" was only mentioned in Section 3. It would be much better drafting if some such words were included here as well as in Clause 3.

**Mr. HARCOURT** said the hon. Baronet the Member for London University had assured him that he was perfectly satisfied with the words which he had pointed out to him would cover the case he raised. He himself thought it would be dangerous to insert the words "or other officer" because it might lead a voter to think that it did not matter which officer he sent the notice to.

**Sir FRANCIS LOWE** said the voter could not possibly think that.

**Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD** asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Sir FRANCIS LOWE** protested that he had not been heard.

**The CHAIRMAN** said that if an hon. Member wished to withdraw an Amendment and the Committee consented, it constantly happened that hon. Members were shut out from taking part in the debate.

**Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN** formally moved to leave out the words, "who is responsible for the printing of the parliamentary register."

**Mr. HARCOURT** said he did not suppose the right hon. Gentleman wished him to reply to this Amendment as the point was really included in their previous decisions. He supposed he merely moved it for the purpose of enabling an hon. friend of his to make a speech.

MR AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that was so. His hon. friend the Member for Birmingham was interrupted in making a speech. He himself was satisfied, but he thought his hon. friend was trying to raise another point.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE said that all he wished to say was that if there was another officer beside the town clerk or the clerk to the county council and the voter was required to send a notice to him he would be acquainted with the fact just as much as he would be acquainted with the existence of the town clerk or of the clerk to the county council. He thought he had been treated a little bit irregularly.

THE CHAIRMAN said he admitted that the hon. Member was treated irregularly, and it was because the hon. Member below him withdrew his Amendment. He must not speak, however, as if he (the Chairman) had treated him irregularly.

SIR FRANCIS LOWE said he did not mean to speak disrespectfully of the Chairman, but he was under the impression that if an hon. Member was speaking to an Amendment he had a right to conclude his speech before the hon. Member who moved it withdrew it.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) moved in Clause 1, page 1, line 20, after the word "constituency" to insert "on or." He thought the Amendment would make the Bill more in harmony with the existing registration law.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, after the word "constituency" to insert the words 'on or.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he would accept the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON moved an Amendment altering the date applicable to the selecting of a constituency from 1st September to 5th September. He did this, he said, to avoid the difficulty of clashing dates. There was already a date of electoral law, which was the 5th of September. Some years ago an effort had been made to assimilate these dates with great success.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out 'first,' and insert 'fifth.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'first' stand part of the clause.'"

MR. HARCOURT was prepared to accept the date of 5th September, and agreed as to the desirability of assimilation.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) thought the proper thing would be to postpone the date for selection until same day after the lists had been revised by the revising barristers, and suggested the 1st of November.

MR. HARCOURT said the Committee would see why this month was put in instead of November. During the revision the person responsible for printing had of course to get on with his work. Practically the whole register came into force on the 1st November, and it must be printed before then, and if they made the notices too late the plural voter would not be able to be marked in the printed register, and would have to be written in afterwards in ink. He did not think the 5th of September would be an inconvenient date, and any delay would be so trifling that it would not be worth troubling about.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the right hon. Gentleman had accepted the 5th September because it was not intended that the question of these marks should come within the purview of the revising barrister at all. It was the practice to set up in type the draft lists in advance, and issue, not the written lists, but advance copies of the list intended to be printed, but which only ought to be printed when the revision was completed on 12th October. Apparently it was intended that the notice of selection should be a matter entirely outside the purview of the revising barrister. It seemed to him that the 5th of September would meet the case without any other date.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY took as an illustration the case of a voter on the register in the City of London, Chelsea, and a constituency in Surrey. Supposing when the Surrey list was considered this voter's claim was struck off, he would still have two other qualifications, but it would be too late to send in a notice to the City of London or to Chelsea, and therefore that man would be disfranchised.

Mr. HARCOURT thought it would save time if he repeated the promise he had previously made that any case arising in that way would be dealt with so that the man might make a selection after 5th September.

Question put, and negatived.

Proposed word inserted.

Mr. FORSTER said the Amendment he wished to move affected the plural voter who became a plural voter for the first time. It was the case of a man with one qualification who suddenly became possessed of another. He would claim to be put upon the register and it would not be allowed or disallowed until after the date had gone by upon which he had to make his selection. If the month of September stood that man would appear when the new registers came into force as having the right to give two votes, but he would not have been in the position to make a selection. The object he had in view was that where a man had simply a claim he should have the right to make a provisional selection, so that if his claim was allowed or disallowed he would be able to select another constituency. As far as he could see, if the month of September was left in the Bill they would disfranchise such a man as he had suggested for fifteen months after he had become qualified to vote. He was sure that could not be agreeable to the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and he hoped to have some assurance or proof from the Government that the fears he entertained were groundless.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the word 'September,' and to insert the word 'August.'"—(*Mr. H. W. Forster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'September' stand part of the clause"

Mr. HARCOURT said he had already promised to put in the Bill on the Report stage a provision by which a man who has been abroad or who had been incapacitated whilst at home should be able to make his selection at a date subsequent to the 5th September. He had also stated that he was willing to allow a fresh selection to be made if in the interval the man had discovered for the first time that he had a duplicate qualification elsewhere. He thought that would meet the case which had been raised by the hon. Member.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON pointed out that the Committee had already decided that a selection must be sent to the town clerk or the clerk to the county council. The list would not pass out of their hands until two or three weeks later, and that would probably lead to great difficulty and confusion.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the right hon. Gentleman had promised to bear in mind the case of a man who suddenly acquired a new qualification. Would he also include the equally deserving case of the man with two qualifications who selected one constituency and was then struck off.

Mr. HARCOURT: I promised to do that last Friday.

Mr. H. H. MARKS said with the Amendment he desired to move that the Act would read "Before the 5th day of September preceding the commencement of the year in which the selection is to take effect." If the claim was made this year it would begin to take effect this year, that was as soon as the selection was made. The making of the selection was the first step towards getting on the register, and as soon as that was done the act performed began to take effect. There were various processes of taking effect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. We are only talking about the month now.

MR. FORSTER: I ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 22, to leave out the words 'to begin.'"—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'to begin' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT thought the omission of those words was quite unnecessary. He did not say that the words of the clause were the most eloquent that could be framed, but at any rate they carried out the intention of the Act. The register did not come into force until the 1st January, and he thought that fact carried out what the hon. Member wished.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) said the Amendment he wished to move was such a simple one that he thought the Government might very well accept it. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman would be able to argue that this Amendment was against the principle or destructive of his Bill. It was an Amendment of an improving order. The object of the Amendment was to secure that the name should be marked in open Court. He did not claim that the Amendment would do away with all the evil consequences which would arise as a result of this unfortunate Bill, but it might at any rate mitigate those evil consequences. Parliamentary agents would be present when the revising barrister placed his mark against a name, and so mistakes would be guarded against. This was a Bill to disfranchise Unionist electors, but if the Government would adopt this Amendment mistakes would be less liable to occur.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after 'clerk' to insert the words 'shall send the name and address of the voter to the revising barrister, who.'"—(*Mr. Stanley Wilson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he had explained so many times to the Committee that he was really ashamed to repeat it that the matter of the selection would not come before the revising barrister at all, and no one would have any right in the Court to make any remark or take any objection to the selection made.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN thought the hon. Gentleman hardly appreciated the object his hon. friend had in view. It was one which he understood the Government had themselves already undertaken to provide for in one way or another before the Bill left the House. The object of the Amendment was to limit the chance of fraud or forgery. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted there was real danger of notices of selection being forged. If the marking of the register were done in open Court the chances of successful forgery were diminished, for, while the county council clerks would not know whether the signature was forged or not, the Party agents in court would. That was the point to which the right hon. Gentleman in his reply made no reference, and he would ask him to consider the matter from that point of view.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON asked how the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill proposed to meet the case of a man who might have one qualification and who had claimed at the revision court for a second. He might be on the list as an occupier in one constituency and also get a claim allowed at the revision court. He would then be a plural voter. Was the right hon. Gentleman going to make some provision on the Report stage to prevent such a voter from being disqualified from using either of his votes in the subsequent year if a general election should take place? It might be advisable to give the revising barrister the final right of accepting a selection form from any voter whom he might have passed on, and by doing so have created a duplicate qualification.

MR. HARCOURT said he had already given a promise that the matter should be dealt with, as it could easily be. But it would be inappropriate to bring this matter under the purview and active operation of the revising barrister, because he had no power to add or to remove a mark. The point as to forgery would be largely met by the receipt which would have to be sent to the voter acknowledging his selection.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his attitude in regard to this Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman told them that the revising barrister had nothing to do with the matter. That was just the point they wished to press upon the right hon. Gentleman. It would be only through the revising barrister that the general public, and in many cases the voter himself, would be made aware of the selection, and the more publicity that could be given to a selection the better it would be alike for the voter and for all concerned. It would very materially assist in the prevention of fraud and forgery. If this matter passed under the eye of the revising barrister the chance of a man being ignorant of the fact that somebody had sent in a notice in his name that he intended to select a certain constituency would be very much minimised. There were many men who were entirely ignorant of the fact that they were plural voters. He was on a register for thirty-three years without knowing the fact. A person could not personate in a case of that kind if his hon. friend's Amendment received the consideration from the right hon. Gentleman which it abundantly deserved.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY quite agreed that the revising barrister should not have any power of making any alteration or refusing to accept any notice of selection, and he did not understand his hon. friend to move his Amendment with any such object. His hon. friend's object was that if a notice were sent in to the clerk he should send it on to the revising barrister, who would merely put a tick against the name. The mere fact, however, of there being a second officer as a sort of Court of appeal would enable anybody who made a mistake or whose name was sent in without his knowledge to see publicly what had happened and rectify the mistake. The Amendment was not at all likely to do any harm, but it might do good.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) questioned the desirability of keeping the revising barrister entirely out of the Bill, and of having the selection notices dealt with *in camera* by officers who might fail in their duty. In matters of fraud and forgery, and, in fact, in all criminal matters, prevention was better than cure. This Amendment tended to throw a purely ministerial duty upon the revising barrister, who, though in respect to many matters a judicial officer, yet already had many ministerial duties to discharge, and this would give great security against fraud without interfering with the functions naturally forming part of the revising barrister's duty.

*MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford) said he supported the Amendment because for the first time since the registration laws had come into force the duty of marking the register was taken out of the hands of the revising barrister. At present all town clerks and clerks to county councils attended on 8th September, before the revising barrister with all lists, and the revising barrister expunged names of aliens, infants and others, and rectified mistakes and dealt with duplicates, and was the official who marked the register in the case of a divided borough where the voter elects to vote in a particular division. Further than that, it was throwing a great responsibility upon the town clerks and clerks of county councils. The Government would, he thought, be well advised to accept this Amendment, and leave in the hands of the revising barrister that judicial work he had always carried out.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD pointed out that the register was before the revising barrister in proof, and that that Gentleman corrected the proof. One of the things, therefore, that the revising barrister might very well deal with was the errors of all descriptions that had crept in in the course of registering the claims. On the one hand the town clerk might have made a mistake, or he might have mislaid the notice of a claim sent in. Why should they not give the revising barrister the right to put these matters right at the last moment? The revising barrister did not sign his list and close it until 12th October, and if what he suggested was allowed, it would give time, not to send in notice, but to put anything right that might be wrong. For these reasons he thought the right hon. Gentleman should accept the Amendment.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) expressed the opinion that they were really adding to the morass of the franchise laws by departing in this small detail from what was now the practice in municipal registration. Why the municipal list should be corrected by the revising barrister and the town clerk be responsible for the Parliamentary register was a matter he failed to comprehend. As he understood the section, the notice had to be signed by the man qualified to sign it or it was of no value. If the clerk to whom it was sent had grave reason for supposing it was not so signed, what was he to do? Was he to adjudicate upon it on his own initiative? They knew that over and over again these notices had been signed by agents. Supposing a large batch were sent in the handwriting of one man. What was the town clerk to do? The only way in which that question should be raised was in some Court, and the revising barrister was the proper person before whom it should be raised. Supposing a notice was sent and not received by the town clerk, or was not put into the register by him, and the question arose as to whether it ought to be put in, surely the case ought to be dealt with by the revising barrister. In the borough of Eastbourne only last year there was a gentleman whom a large party were trying to prevent from being selected mayor. In correcting the list the town clerk took the old list and ticked off those entitled to vote on the old list, amongst others the name of this gentleman. When, however, this list came out his name did not appear upon it. What happened? In the printing office somebody had been got at to strike out the name which the town clerk had ticked to remain. He thought the Government were running a serious risk, and he suggested in order that a man might be able to see that he was not disfranchised he should be allowed to go before the revising barrister and look at the list. It would be far better to have one system for settling the municipal and Parliamentary lists than to leave the matter in this way. Nothing worse, nothing more difficult, or more likely to render the Bill unworkable could be suggested than working these two principles conterminously.

MR. HARCOURT was averse to persons being dragged from one part of the country to another to revising barristers' Courts. It was obvious in a case where a man had a vote in London and Northumberland that the revising barrister in Northumberland could not know anything about any register except that which he was revising. There were already contests enough in the revision Courts, and this was not a question that could be properly brought there.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Does the town clerk know anything of any other?

MR. HARCOURT said he was not supposed to. He was a purely ministerial officer. He did not wish to make this a question of debate. He would only say that.

SIR E. CARSON said that was the very point. The revising barrister had nothing to say to them; they were left to the town clerk.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) asked, supposing the town clerk received a batch of documents obviously in one handwriting, with this provision as it stood, and with no power to go to the revising barrister, what was his duty?

MR. ASQUITH: To send an acknowledgment, and wait for it to be found out.

MR. STANLEY WILSON said the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to understand what the Amendment meant. It was to allow the revising barrister to put a mark against the name of a man. There was no question of fighting in open Court. It merely meant that the two agents should be before the revising barrister to look into the matter. It appeared to him that the Government were endeavouring to disfranchise as many electors in the country as they possibly could, and therefore he must press this matter to a division.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 84; Noes, 333. (Division List No. 341.)

AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir Willian James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, CaptJames(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir HenrySeymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Stanley Wilson and Mr. Staveley-Hill.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(S'mers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J.Williams (Devonpt)
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.PancrasW.
Corbett, C.H (Sussex,E.Grinstd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. L.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord

Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey

Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. (Brynmor, Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r

Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Tayor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)

Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
William, Llewelyn (Carm'then)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SIR E. CARSON moved an Amendment to make it incumbent on the clerk of a town or county council on receiving a notice of the selection of a constituency to send an acknowledgment of the receipt of such notice. The object of the Amendment, he observed, was to enable the person who sent a notice to be sure that the clerk had received it, or if he did not receive it, by reason of not getting an acknowledgment to know that such was the case. What would happen if he sent notice and the clerk did not receive it he did not know. The Bill did not provide for that. If the notice was sent and the man was not put on the register he could not vote. That was a flaw, and he did not know whether the Government at some time or other would turn their attention to it. His Amendment would at all events obviate some of the difficulties, because a man who had sent his notice some time before the 1st of September would, at all events, have an opportunity of inquiring afterwards whether the clerk had got the notice or not, and it was of the greatest importance that some opportunity should be given to the man who had taken the trouble to give a notice to see that he had secured his right. Even if this Amendmendment was accepted—and he could not understand why it should not be—he would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill the advisability of making these obligations upon the clerk in some way or other effective by putting upon the clerk such a penalty as would make him carry out the provisions of the Act, because otherwise nothing would happen by reason of the default of the clerk.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'send an acknowledgment of the receipt of the said notice and.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he had already promised that an Amendment should be made in the sense of that now proposed. He thought the terms of the Amendment carried out what he had promised, and therefore he accepted them. He was also prepared to impose a penalty on the clerk for not carrying out his duties. This he would fix at a later stage.

SIR E. CARSON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could place the Amendment on the Paper for consideration by the Committee. He thought that would be desirable, as they were leaving so much to the Report stage.

MR. HARCOURT said the right hon. and learned Gentleman must be content with the promise he had given. Those who had long experience of the House knew that it was not unusual to bring up such Amendments on the Report stage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR agreed that the course proposed was the one usually adopted. He thought, however, there had sometimes been a tendency to carry too far the practice of postponing the introduction of Amendments to the Report stage of a Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR WILLIAM BULL thought there was a little clerical error in the use of the word "register". At the time when the person sent his notice of selection, there was no register, but only a list of voters. He begged to move to leave out "register" and insert "list of voters."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, to leave out the word 'register' and insert the words, 'list of voters.'"—(*Sir William Bull.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'register' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said it was quite true that technically this was a list of voters; but it was no interest to a person that he should be on the list of voters, but only on the list when it became an effective register.

SIR WILLIAM BULL said that all other Acts of Parliament called it a list of voters.

SIR E. CARSON hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment, because the list of voters only became a register when it was signed by the revising barrister.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR E. CARSON moved to leave out the words "in the manner prescribed by the Order-in-Council made under this Act," and in lieu thereof to substitute "with the word 'selected' opposite such name." He objected to these matters being done by Orders-in-Council. Why should they not say here and now what the mark was to be? The procedure should be plainly set out in the Act of Parliament without the necessity of the voter having to refer to an Order-in-Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 23, to leave out from the word 'register' to the word 'and,' in line 25, and insert the words 'with the word 'selected' opposite such name.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT thought it would be more for the public convenience that the matter should be governed by Order-in-Council. The right hon. Gentleman had found Orders-in-Council exceedingly useful in bringing Irish legislation into operation. [AN HON. MEMBER on the Irish Benches: Coercion Acts.] Experience might show that an alteration was desirable in the form of working, and an Order-in-Council would afford the necessary elasticity.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 314; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 342.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B.(Hexh'm.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ. Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L., (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, RtHnSirJ.T. (Cheshire
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hn. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.

Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H (York, Otley)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worcr.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T H W
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, Robt. John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, SirC.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashtonunder Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, SirJohn L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John(Stoke-upon-Trent)

Ward, W. Dudley(South'mp'tn.
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams. J, (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfd.
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham)
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid).
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) moved to add the following new sub-section—"(3) If a person having selected a voting constituency should become disqualified or disabled from voting in that constituency in any year, he may, at any time during such year, select for the purposes of this Act another voting constituency from among those constituencies for which he is registered, and send a notice of his selection signed by him to the clerk of the county council or town clerk in manner aforesaid, and such selection shall forthwith have effect accordingly." The hon. Member said that several points had been raised in the course of the debates which the hon. Member in charge of the Bill said he would take into consideration, and he hoped he would take into consideration the point he was now raising. He brought the Amendment forward in order to provide for the case of a man who had a vote, say, in three separate constituencies, who made a selection in one them, and then found that the particular vote he had selected was disallowed by the revising barrister. Unless some such provision as he now proposed was inserted that man would be disfranchised, and he thought it would be very desirable to prevent such a state of things from arising.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end to add the words, '(3) If a person having selected a voting constituency should become disqualified or disabled from voting in that constituency in any year, he may, at any time during such year, select for the purposes of this Act another voting constituency from among those constituencies for which he is registered, and send a notice of his selection signed by him to the clerk of the county council or town clerk in manner aforesaid, and such selection shall forthwith have effect accordingly.'"—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT agreed with the spirit of the suggestion which had been made although he could not agree to the exact words which the hon. Member had proposed. He would consider the matter and bring up words to meet the case upon Report.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he had an Amendment on the Paper which provided that if any plural voter should fail to send such notice before the first day of November in any year he should be entitled to vote for any one constituency in which he resided. He thought that this proposal raised a separate point which had not yet been discussed, but perhaps the Chairman might differ from him and rule it out of order. He therefore wished to know whether it was in order or not. It would enable a man to vote in one constituency only and compel him to vote in the constituency in which he resided if he had not sent in a notice of selection in due time.

THE CHAIRMAN thought the point had been covered by the discussion which had gone before, and therefore the Amendment would be out of order.

MR. FORSTER said he also had an Amendment on the Paper which he thought raised a point which had not been discussed. It would enact that "provided always that if no selection be made by any elector residing outside the county or borough in which he is registered, the clerk of the county council or town clerk shall, before the twenty-fifth day of August in each year, send a copy of the entry in the register to the registration officer of the county or borough in which such elector resides, asking him if the elector is on the register of such county or borough, and the reply must be returned on or before the fifth day of September, and if the reply is in the affirmative the clerk of the county council or town clerk shall inform the revising barrister of the fact, and the revising barrister shall mark the register in the manner prescribed by Order-in-council; nothing in this Act shall prevent any elector who shall not be marked as aforesaid from recording his vote at any election."

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment would alter the decision at which the Committee had arrived in regard to some of the Amendments in Clause 1. He had looked at it very carefully and he thought the point had been covered.

MR. FORSTER said he did not wish to dispute the ruling of the Chair, and quite agreed that the concluding part of the Amendment might be taken to deal with a matter which had already been discussed and decided. Therefore he should propose to leave out all reference to the revising barrister and make the Amendment read that the clerk should mark the register.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member had altered the Amendment very much. He did wish that hon. Members would give him notice of these alterations, because many of the points were extremely difficult to decide. He was not prepared to rule the hon. Member's Amendment out of order with that alteration. Of course the latter part was clearly out of order, but he did not think he ought to prevent the other part from being discussed.

MR. FORSTER regretted that he was not able to let the Chairman know of his proposed alteration, but he pointed out that it was only within the last few minutes the Committee had decided that the revising barrister should not be brought in. The object he had in view in moving his Amendment in its amended form was to prevent the possible disfranchisement of a large number of people whom he was afraid would be disfranchised if the provisions of the Bill were left unamended. What he wanted was that in cases where no selection had been made by the elector the register should make it apparent and should be so marked by the clerk that he was an "out voter."

THE CHAIRMAN was sorry to interrupt the hon. Member, but he had not grasped before that what he was now moving was really a contradiction of what had already been passed. The first subsection stated distinctly that the individual plural voter must select before a certain date and this proposal would go altogether beyond that. He ought, therefore, to have ruled it out of order before and he did so now.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN formally moved the first Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Dublin University.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words 'and the clerk shall retain and preserve all notices so sent.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN also begged to move the following Amendment standing in the name of the same right hon. and learned Gentleman. He pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had agreed on the previous Wednesday to provide for this matter, and suggested that if he was not willing to accept these words he should be prepared with the words he proposed to substitute for them. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words 'provided that when on application made it is shown to the High Court that a person was prevented by illness or by absence beyond the seas from sending such notice the Court may, if it thinks right, give liberty to serve such notice together with a copy of the Order giving such liberty, and thereupon the clerk shall mark the name in manner prescribed by the Order in Council.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT demurred to the implied suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman that he had neglected in detail the promise he had made. The reason he said that he did not produce the words now was that he was anxious to carry the matter further and deal with the case of the application of the voter who subsequently discovered he was on another register. An application to the High Court would be a rather expensive thing to the working plural voter, and he was considering whether the application could not be made to the county council in the locality. He could not, of course, pledge himself that it should be so.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) moved an Amendment to provide that where a voter was entered on the register of more than one constituency by reason of a claim's having been proved before a revising barrister, he should be at liberty to make a selection within seven days after such proof has been made. He desired to take this opportunity of putting on record another proof of the extraordinary want of care with which this Bill had been drafted. Let the Committee assume that this Bill passed into law, and a Parliamentary election was being conducted under its provisions in the year 1908. In that case the register would be completed in the autumn of 1907. Under the provisions of this Bill a plural voter had to select the constituency in which he would vote before the 5th of September, 1907. The man who possessed only one qualification had not to send in any notice of selection. Supposing in the course the revision Court in September, 1907, either with the knowledge of the voter or without, a claim was put forward in another constituency and established, and on the 1st of January, 1908, that voter was initialled as a plural voter. By the law of the land he could not have a vote unless he made a selection, and he was exposed to dire penalties if he exercised the franchise. He had no chance of selection, because the claim to the second vote was established after he sent in his claim. On the face of it the position was absurd. When the Bill contained such an arrant error as the omission of a provision to deal with such a case it stood convicted as an absurdity. This, he contended, was only one of the numerous instances of many similar blunders and the same want of care. It was in order to get rid of this absurd position that he moved his Amendment. It was absolutely necessary in the interests of fair play and justice that a man should have a certain time during which he could signify to the proper authorities that, having now a second vote, he did select to vote in a particular constituency. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'Provided always that where a voter bebecomes enrolled as a Parliamentry elector in more than one constituency by reason of a claim having been proved before a revising barrister, he shall be at liberty to make a selection within seven days after such proof has been made.' "—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he had already explained that this case would be dealt with in his proposed new clause. It was perfectly clear that a voter could not select if his second qualification accrued subsequent to his sending in his notice.

MR. LYTTELTON pointed out that the point raised by the Amendment was not that which the right hon. Gentleman had proposed to deal with. The point the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind was the case of a voter who sent in a selection. The point raised here was where a selection had not been made and where a second and new qualification accrued subsequently, rendering a selection necessary.

MR. HARCOURT said he quite understood that. This came within the category of those who through illness or absence abroad had been omitted during the year.

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) said the right hon. Gentleman had made a definite promise that if this case had not been covered he intended to provide for it. He wanted to point out, however, that cases of this kind ought to make the right hon. Gentleman and Members generally ask whether this was a fair way of dealing with the selection. The only fair way of dealing with selection was that in force in boroughs, where a voter qualified in several wards had not until the election came round to decide in which ward he would vote.

MR. HARCOURT said that his was the usual fate which befel those who endeavoured to meet objections. He had tried in many instances to meet points on which hon. Gentlemen opposite professed to feel alarm, but which he did not think really ever would arise. He could not allow this action of his to be the excuse for a charge that the Government produced a Bill which would not have operated perfectly in its original shape.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was perfectly true that concessions from the Government bench were not always so kindly received as they might be. This was the first Bill the right hon. Gentleman had conducted, but he hoped it would not be the last. The right hon. Gentleman had displayed admirable qualities in dealing with this measure, but he must not think he was a special victim of Parliamentary ingratitude. He himself had had a long and, he thought he might say, painful experience of conducting controversial measures through this House, and relatively to some of his predecessors the right hon. Gentleman could rest assured that he was in a peculiarly fortunate position.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS moved an Amendment to provide that in the event of a plural voter's name being struck out in the place where he had been accustomed to vote notice should be sent him by the clerk in order that he might select another constituency where he was entitled to vote. Unless this Amendment were adopted the voter struck off would be disqualified altogether.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at the end, insert, 'In the event of the person's name being removed from the register, the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.' "—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he could not possibly accept this Amendment, as it would put a very considerable labour upon the clerk, and was not necessary, because *ex hypothesi* a person having been removed from the register must have received notice of the objection upon which he was removed.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY disagreed with the right hon. Gentleman, and said he could give a case in point. He himself was on the register for the borough of Chelsea, and voted there several times, but at a certain election he went to the polling booth and found that his name had been removed, although he had had no notice. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would explain how it was he did not receive a notice.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he thought it could readily be explained why the hon. Baronet did not get a notice, and the explanation would show that this Amendment ought to be accepted. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that the last year's register had to stand unless objection was given against it. That was not the case. The list of voters was prepared afresh, or ought to be, every year by the overseers, and the hon. Baronet's name was clearly left off by the overseers. If his name had been put on the list by the overseers, and somebody had made an objection, it would have come before the revising barrister and notice would have been sent to his hon. friend. But if the overseers left out any voter's name the only remedy was for the voter to make a claim. The overseers were alone responsible for the list until it got into the hands of the revising barrister, and the overseers were not bound to follow the preceding year's list to any extent whatever.

Mr. HARCOURT said he was dealing, of course, with continuous good qualification.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY said he was put on the list again.

Mr. HARCOURT said then the hon. Baronet was in a very unfortunate position; but it was, of course, open to everyone to see the overseers' list before the 1st August.

Mr CARLILE said the Amendment was an extremely reasonable one. Notice of objection might be sent to the voter, and if the objection were upheld his position was one of very considerable difficulty.

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, and leave having been given to move the Adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 10, Further Proceeding stood postponed without Question put.

## IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford), in moving the adjournment of the House, said that were it not that the matter about which he was going to speak was a vital one, he would not interpose discussion at this moment; but anyone who was at all acquainted with Ireland, and certainly those who were at all responsible for the government of Ireland, would admit that the question he was going to bring to the notice of the House was of the most vital urgency, and one which affected not merely the question of land settlement and the fulfilment of the great object of the Land Act, but most directly affected the whole question of the peace and tranquillity and the maintenance of law and order in Ireland. The Government could not be surprised that he raised this question, because several weeks ago he wrote to the Chief Secretary informing him that the very first day of the autumn session he intended to submit a Question to him on the matter, and subsequently in conversation, so far back as, he believed, 8th October, he told the right hon. Gentleman that not only would he ask this Question, but that he would endeavour, if it were in order, to raise a discussion on the matter on a Motion for the Adjournment of the House. Therefore neither the right hon. Gentleman nor his colleagues could be taken by surprise in this matter. There was no opportunity of raising this question of vital urgency except on a Motion of Adjournment. By one of those characteristic arrangements in the government of Ireland the Report of the Irish Estates Commissioners, a matter of the most vital interest to everybody connected with Ireland, although due last March, was not published until after the House rose in August; and therefore they were kept in ignorance of what he would call the essential facts contained in that Report until after Parliament had risen. No one could complain for a moment that that being so they had seized the first possible opportunity of raising the matter now. There was no other mode of raising this question other than that which he had adopted. Under the Motion which was made for the holding of these autumn sittings, no question could be raised other than a matter of Government business, except by way of the Adjournment of the House, and therefore they had been forced to take this opportunity of raising the question, because it was the only way open to them, and because the question was one of such vital urgency that it was impossible that Parliament should continue to sit for any time in the autumn without some discussion upon subjects connected with the Land Commission Report issued in March. It was not too much to say that the whole question of the peace and tranquillity and the maintenance of law and order in Ireland depended upon the question of the evicted tenants. The settlement of the land question depended upon it; no one would deny that. The intention of Parliament was perfectly plain in the matter. The object of their land legislation in 1903 was perfectly plain to the whole country. It was to end the Irish land war, and all those who were responsible for the land legislation of 1903 admitted at the time in this House that the land war could not be settled unless there was a settlement of the evicted tenants question, and he might say for himself, as one of those who had no inconsiderable share in the negotiations which led to the land legislation of 1903, that his colleagues and he in all those negotiations made it a condition precedent that the Irish evicted tenants question should be settled. He said without hesitation that the Land Act of 1903 would never have been carried were it not that that Land Bill held forth the promise, and that the promoters of the Bill in the most explicit way held forth the promise in public and in private that it would mean the speedy settlement of the question of the evicted tenants. He supposed there were scarcely any Members in the House whose memories did not go back to the events connected with Irish politics for the past twenty years. Still there were some, perhaps, whose memories were so short as to forget the salient points in the political history of that period. The evicted tenants in Ireland were to them on those benches, and he thought he might say, without fear of contradiction, they were to hon. Gentlemen opposite, the men who made vital and necessary every special Act on land reform in Ireland that had been passed in the past twenty-five years. The Land Act of 1881 would have been impossible had it not been for the struggles and sacrifices of the evicted tenants. Land purchase would never have been heard of were it not for the struggles and sacrifices of the evicted tenants; the great Land Act of 1903 would never have been heard of were it not for their struggles and sacrifices—struggles and sacrifices in support of the policy and principle of the Land League. Parnell and the Land League took as their principle the purchase by the tenants of their holdings at a fair price, and although that was at the time denounced as confiscation and robbery, not only the Liberal Party, but the Conservative Party had since accepted the principle. They believed that this would never have happened were it not for the struggles and sacrifices of the Irish evicted tenants—sacrifices compared with which the imprisonment of his colleagues and friends was a small matter—sacrifices that meant the risking of their well-being and that of their wives and children, and the giving up of their homes. The Irish nation would be beneath contempt if it permitted any so-called settlement of the land question which did not include the restoration of these men to their homes. What occurred when the Land Act of 1903 was passed? They suddenly found that all the promises that had been made of a speedy settlement of the evicted tenants question were fading into thin air. They found that the Act was not restoring the evicted tenants to their homes, and they speedily discovered that was to a large extent due to certain restrictions and regulations which were issued by the late Government for the guidance of the Estate Commissioners in carrying out the Act. They found that these regulations had practically stopped the work of reinstatement. They found that these regulations had forbidden the Estate Commissioners to initiate any negotiations with the landlords for the purposes of reinstatement of evicted tenants, and that reinstatement was forbidden altogether unless the whole estate on which these farms were situated was being sold at the time. The Report of the Estates

Commissioners made it quite clear. It says—

> "The instructions contain provisions which in the Commissioners' opinion seriously impeded the expedition and efficient working of the Act, especially in the acquisition of untenanted land and the restoration of evicted tenants,"

so that there was a statement by the Estate Commissioners in their Report that the late Government issued regulations, the effect of which was directly to thwart and impede the intentions of Parliament in passing the Land Act of 1903. Therefore they found that up to the end of last year there was some explanation of the breakdown of the Land Act of 1903 with reference to the evicted tenants. It did not work, and they all thought they had found the explanation in the fact that the late Government had issued these regulations. They therefore hailed with delight the accession to office of the present Government, because they knew that they came in pledged to the hilt to abolish these obnoxious regulations. The only occasion on which the late Government were defeated in the Division Lobby last year was on a Motion moved by himself condemning these regulations, and in support of that Motion almost the whole Liberal Party and the present Government voted, and so the Irish Nationalists hailed with delight their accession to office, because they felt sure that it meant that the Land Act of 1903, so far as the evicted tenants were concerned, would at last begin to work, and the whole people looked forward with hope and confidence. To-day, in reply to a Question on this matter, the Chief Secretary had given him an Answer which raised a number of most serious questions. First of all he made the point that he had been making that the delay in the working of the evicted tenants' portion of the Land Act was due in large measure to the action of the late Government, because the right hon. Gentleman said that under the former regulations—that was the regulations made by the late Government—the Estates Commissioners were not allowed to negotiate with owners of untenanted land for the purchase of it with the view of providing farms for evicted tenants, and they were also prohibited from proposing the reinstatement of evicted tenants on holdings unless the whole of the estate on which the holding was situate was sold. Both these restrictions were removed by the regulations of February, 1906, and subsequently in May last the Estates Commissioners were given a special staff of six inspectors for the purpose of the promotion of this work. Therefore, so far, their expectations were fulfilled. The Government tore up those obnoxious regulations, and they appointed a special staff of six inspectors to aid in the work of the restoration of the evicted tenants. But what had been the result? Had the case during the months since the Government came into office been exaggerated? Unfortunately, no. On that point the right hon. Gentleman to-day gave important information. Since the new regulations came into force, since a friendly Government took charge of this matter, since an increased staff had been put at the disposal of the Estates Commissioners, 1,285 cases of evicted tenants had been investigated. How many had been reinstated? Eighty-six. There had been applications for reinstatement from 5,912. Of these, up to the present moment only 161 had been restored to their homes by the action of the Estates Commissioners, and only 86 out of the 1,285 cases investigated had been restored since this Government came into office. What was the cause of this? Here they had a strange state of things. They had a Government most anxious, according to their own professions, to restore those men to their homes; they had the disappearance of those obnoxious regulations which this Government told them impeded the work; they had an increase in the staff of the Land Commissioners and no increase in the progress of the work. What was the reason? The right hon. Gentleman, in his Answer to him this afternoon, gave under four headings what he considered to be the cause of this failure. Let him read them. He said these were the causes of the failure—

> "(1) The unwillingness of tenants who hold evicted farms to relinquish them in favour of the former holders; (2) the difficulty of finding, especially in Ulster and Munster, untenanted land which the owner will consent to sell; (3) local opposition which is sometimes offered to the introduction of strangers—local public opinion might do much to remove this obstacle; (4) objection taken by landlords in whose hands evicted farms are to the giving up of those farms for the reinstatement of evicted tenants."

Let him point out in a few words that really these four heads might be consolidated. They all amounted to one cause—first, the unwillingness of tenants who held evicted farms to relinquish them in favour of the former holders, and secondly, the difficulty of getting landlords to agree to sell untenanted land. Those were both parts of the same question. It was the policy of the Land Act of 1903 that where in Ireland what they called the grabber was in possession of an evicted farm no violence should be used to compel him to give up that farm, but that the Estates Commissioners should be able to give another farm to the evicted tenant on untenanted land acquired elsewhere or be in a position to say to the grabber, "If you relinquish this farm and let the old tenant back we will give you another farm elsewhere." Therefore the unwillingness of the grabber to relinquish his land was part and parcel of the same question of obtaining untenanted land by the Land Commissioners. If the landlords by refusing to sell untenanted land to the Land Commissioners deprived them of the means of thus providing new farms for the old tenants or for the new tenants, those were part and parcel of exactly the same question. It all came back to this, that so far as that matter was concerned the working of the Act was being blocked by the action of the landlords. He did not want to say anything in defence of the grabber, but in this matter by far the most guilty man was the landlord, because if he would agree to sell untenanted land to the Land Commission the Land Commission would be able to reinstate the evicted tenant, even though the grabber refused to give up the old farm which he took from the old tenant. The third cause the right hon. Gentleman gave for the breakdown of the Act was that local opposition was sometimes offered to the introduction of strangers. That raised an exceedingly delicate and difficult question. What he would say by way of advice to the right hon. Gentleman and to his officials in Ireland was this. They ought to be very cautious how they carried out this policy of migration. He had known himself of some cases where without any consultation with the local leaders and local opinion they had endeavoured to carry it out. He did not think popular opinion on this matter was unreasonable at all. He thought it was natural that the people in any particular county should say that the wants and needs of the non-economic tenants in that county should be considered first before men were brought from other parts of the country. Although that was a perfectly natural feeling, at the same time he was convinced that if they were properly approached and their local leaders brought into consultation it would be found that no unreasonable attitude would be taken up in the matter. There was a case in the West of Ireland, and most lamentable consequences to some extent arose, and seemed likely to a greater extent to arise, and all due to the fact that local leaders were not consulted at all. The first the people of the locality heard was the appearance of strangers from another county who came and were told they were to be given some of the grazing land in the county in question. That was the excuse for the breaking down of the evicted tenants' portion of the Act of 1903. He said that the contention was a sham. He did not believe that there were half a dozen cases in the whole of Ireland where the reinstatement of the evicted tenants was prevented by any such feeling on the part of the locality. It was a perfectly proper question to raise, and the right hon. Gentleman in raising it pointed to one of the difficulties ahead in the settlement of the land question, but to point to it as the reason why only 161 tenants had been restored in three years was on the part of whoever prepared the document a sham. These were the only reasons given by the Government for the breakdown of the Act, and be submitted to the House that he had shown that, boiled down, these four reasons all amounted to one, namely, the refusal of the landlords to sell untenanted land, and the refusal of the grabbers to give up evicted farms for the reinstatement of the former tenants. In another part of the answer of the right hon. Gentleman there was what appeared to be very dramatic confirmation of that view. He told the House that of the 1,285 cases of evicted tenants specially inquired into since the Government came into office, there were 444 cases where the landlords would not only not reinstate the evicted tenants, but would not allow the Estates Commissioners to come on to the lands at all to inquire into the question of the evicted farms or to initiate negotiations. What a farce it all was! The Land Act of 1903 was passed avowedly having almost as its primary object the reinstatement of the evicted tenants, and a friendly Government sent to the Estates Commissioners instructions to go down through the country and initiate negotiations with the landlords wherever there were evicted farms and to seek to get the evicted tenants reinstated. How did the landlords act? They would not allow the Estates Commissioners' inspectors to put a foot on the land or to investigate the matter at all, and really the right hon. Gentleman might not have taken such pains as he apparently did on this question to wrap up and disguise the real reason of the breakdown of the evicted tenants' portion of the Act. He thought it would have been better for the settlement of the question, better for the Government and himself, if he had come down and candidly stated "we have done all that we can, we have given the freest hand to the Estates Commissioners, we have given them as large a staff as they have asked, but the cause is this—the landlords will not carry out what was the primary policy of the Land Act of 1903." He thought the House, when it remembered that this Act had now been in operation for three years, and when it remembered something of the history of the Irish agrarian movement with all the passions that it aroused, and all the memories that it kept alive, would admit that the Irish people had acted with singular self-restraint and patience during these three years. Ireland had been, during the last three years and was today, in a state of profound and extraordinary peace. He did not say "extraordinary" in comparison with its own history at all, but by comparison with the history of England or Scotland, or any other country they liked, Ireland was now in a state of profound peace and crimelessness, and that had been due almost entirely to the fact that the people had looked forward with hope and with faith to this Government's, at any rate, making good the promise made in 1903, but he felt bound to say to the right hon. Gentleman that in his judgment that feeling was almost exhausted. He regretted a phrase which the right hon. Gentleman used in his answer to-day to the effect that they ought to be patient because these were preliminary investigations which were being held. Good heavens! Preliminary investigations going on for three years in regard to a question which required no investigation at all.

The CHIEF SECRETARY to the LORD-LIEUTENANT of IRELAND (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): For four months.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: So far as this Government were concerned they had been in office for nine months. And after all, he himself had to look at the question from the point of view of the people of Ireland. They had been waiting for three years since the Act was passed. In that time there had been 5,912 applications for re-instatement. Some of these might not be genuine cases, but making every allowance for such, only 161 had been re-instated in the three years by the Estates Commissioners. Worse still, during the nine months which the present Government had been in office, only eighty-six had been restored to their holdings. That was to say, that if they went on at the present rate it would take fifty years to settle the evicted tenants' question. By that time all these evicted tenants would be dead and buried.

Mr. BYLES (Salford, N.): Many of them are already.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said that the majority of hon. Members would also be dead and buried before the evicted tenants' question was set at rest, if the present rate of restoration was continued. He did not want to use extreme language, but in all seriousness he told the right hon. Gentleman that the Irish people would not tolerate this state of things. What he asserted was that the Government must have resort to compulsion. The right hon. the Chief Secretary at the end of his answer to the question which he had put to him earlier in the day said that—

> "Until the whole of the evidence is before the Government, and until the administrative measures taken, and capable of being taken, by the Estates Commissioners have matured, I am not in a position to state whether further legislation upon the matter will be necessary or not."

The House must remember that the present Secretary for India, ten years ago, appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into this question, and that

Commission took all the evidence, brought out all the facts, and made a most remarkable report. The right hon. the Chief Secretary could not for a moment suppose that the Irish people would be satisfied with an answer of that kind. The right hon. Gentleman knew the facts and had all the evidence before him; he knew what was standing in the way of a settlement, and what he asked from him was a straight-forward statement on this matter. If the right hon. Gentleman had said "I do not think that the nine months we have been in office is long enough to enable us to settle the question"—he admitted that their experience had been somewhat disappointing; still with all his twenty-five years experience of the land question, he still cherished the hope that some feeling of goodness would touch the hearts of the Clanricardes and other harsh landlords—if the right hon. Gentleman had said to him "give me a few months more, and if, at the end of that time those landlords still stand in the way of restoration, the Government will introduce legislation giving compulsory powers of re-instatement"—if the right hon. Gentleman had said that, he certainly would not have complained, and he would have said to the Irish people—to all those with whom he had any influence—that they ought to be still patient. What was he to say to them when the right hon. the Chief Secretary in answer to his question said that they had nothing definite enough to go upon, and that the Government would see how matters would mature? The way to deal with these Irish landlords like the Clanricardes was to say to them—"We give you six months to agree to the re-instatement of your tenants, and if you do not by that time do so, we shall carry by our majority in Parliament a Bill giving compulsory powers to the Estates Commissioners to re-instate every tenant in Ireland. And further, we will introduce a proposal to refuse to every landlord who declines to restore his evicted tenants to their holdings a share in the bonus." He knew that the Government might allege that all they could say would not affect the Clanricardes; but so far as the majority of the Irish landlords were concerned he believed they would very soon hand in their guns. The position of the Irish Nationalist Leaders was a very difficult one. For his part, he was most anxious that the fullest fair play should be given to the present Government till he saw what next year, or whenever they attempted it, they were going to propose on the question of Irish self-government. But there were limits to their power, and when he was asked to use his influence to preach patience to the Irish people, he told the right hon. Gentleman that he might make that task an impossible one if he did not act more strenuously on this question of the evicted tenants. He had raised this question as much in the interest of Irish government and of the right hon. Gentleman as in the interest of those for whom he spoke. He believed that the one fatal thing for this Government, so far as Ireland was concerned—and Ireland might have a good deal to say as regarded the future of the present Government—was to teach the lesson to the Irish people that there was no use in observing patience, no use being put off with expressions of sympathy when they could get nothing from a change of Government. He begged the right hon. Gentleman, not merely in the interest of the evicted tenants, but also, if he might be allowed to say so, in the interest of the Government itself, of Irish government, and of himself, whose sincere sympathy with Ireland he gladly acknowledged, to take a firm stand upon this question, and to let those Irish landlords know that if they remained obdurate and refused to allow a settlement of this burning question, the Government would grapple with it in a manner which would show the landlords they would be the losers in the long run. He begged to move.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.) seconded the Motion. He said it would be impossible to exaggerate the immense importance of this question in relation to the peace and happiness of the people, and the tranquility of Ireland. The question of the reinstatement of the evicted tenants had been discussed time after time for twenty years past, so that there was no question affecting Ireland which was so well and thoroughly understood by hon. Members and by the country at large. Everyone acquainted with Irish affairs knew that in the years 1885–6–7 Ireland passed through a period of extraordinary agricultural depresssion, in consequence of which the tenants were obliged to band themselves in a combination known as the Plan of Campaign, with the view of resisting, on the one hand, the aggressions of the landlords and of protecting their own interests on the other. A large number of the tenants were evicted from their homes, and those unfortunate tenants had been ever since regarded as self-sacrificers for the purpose of securing reformed land legislation, and their defence and protection had always been regarded as a point of honour with the Irish people. The Irish people took the deepest and most thorough-going interest in these people, and they would not rest until they were restored to their holdings or holdings of equal substantiality were provided for them. These evicted tenants were always regarded by the Irish people as the wounded soldiers in the land war, and up to the Act of 1903 the whole force of the Nationalists' organisation had been used for the purpose of protecting them from attack. When the Act of 1903 was passed they were all filled with the hope that these unfortunate people would be restored to their holdings, and they had done their best, in consequence of the assurances offered them in this House, to try and get the people to take to that Act kindly, always with the hope that the day would come when a Liberal Government would try and find a solution for this knotty question. His own district was the most disturbed in Ireland, and he could say that so long as this great question was allowed to exist the wound would be constantly widening and festering, and there would be no chance of obtaining or restoring that peace, happiness, and tranquility which they all desired quite as strongly as any other set of hon. Members in the House. When, however, the Government allowed a man like Lord Clanricarde to hold in his possession 206 evicted holdings and protected a man of that kind who never visited Ireland in his life except upon two occasions — on one occasion he paid a midnight visit to bury his father, and on another occasion he came over to Dublin Castle to prosecute his agent — they thought the time had come when they should protest. Lord Clanricarde came into a great inheritance in Ireland to which was attached a princely castle, which had cost £80,000 to build when the old castle was destroyed by fire. The landlord had, however, allowed that castle to remain windowless and roofless. He could go on to describe at great length the acts of agression and of cruelty which had been committed by this man. He was not indeed a man but an inhuman monster. So long as the Government of the day, whether it was Liberal or Tory, allowed such power to remain in the hands of such a man, and allowed him to wreak his own will on the people under his control, they could expect nothing but turmoil. In the same district another landowner some years ago evicted fifty-six tenants, and in that case also every single one of the holdings had remained derelict. The Chief Secretary had stated in his reply that one of the reasons why the Estates Commissioners had not restored evicted tenants was the unwillingness of tenants who held evicted farms to relinquish them to the former owners. The right hon. Gentleman had also alluded to the difficulty of finding untenanted land which the owner would consent to sell. The latter question was a very difficult and thorny one in the West of Ireland. Early in the year the Estates Commissioners purchased 150 acres in the neighbourhood of Loughrea, one of the most congested districts in Ireland, from which he had himself forwarded to the Estates Commissioners during the last eighteen months memorials from tenants, or the sons of tenants, which not less than 1,000 acres of land would satisfy, and this purchase of the Estates Commissioners would not give the people who wanted land an acre apiece. On their part Nationalist Members did everything in their power to see that the reasonable requirements of evicted tenants were complied with, and they did all they could to induce people in other districts to allow evicted tenants to settle amongst them, and to restrain public opinion upon the subject. Unless some steps were taken by the Government to alleviate the grievance at present existing, it would lead to great annoyance. This was a very great question, and, outside the National question, none appealed so strongly or so deeply to the love and affection of the Irish people, and the Government might be satisfied that peace and happiness was not possible in Ireland so long as a single one of the Plan of Campaign tenants was allowed to remain out of his holding. These evicted tenants were to be found in the workhouses throughout the land.

They were to be found in America and in foreign parts, but wherever the evicted tenant was found, in his heart was deeply planted the love of home, and he was desirous of being repatriated. The Government should try and control and, if necessary, manacle such men as Lord Clanricarde, and, if needs be, bring in a Bill to expropriate them. If that was not done it would become the duty of the Irish Nationalist Members to look out and see in what direction they could actually defend these tenants without bringing them within the measure of the law.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said anyone not accustomed to the tactics of the Nationalist Party must have been amazed at the notice of Motion for Adjournment given that afternoon at Question time. New Members, on the Liberal side especially, probably asked themselves, "What does it all mean? We were getting on so nicely. We had come to an understanding with the Nationalist Party. Why do they upset everything? Why this Motion for Adjournment so suddenly, so unexpectedly?" The answer he could give them from a longer knowledge of the House than many of them had. It was a sham fight. It was a clever plot, a clever plan of campaign carefully arranged between the Whips of the Government side, and the Whips on the Nationalist Party. It served a double purpose. It showed first of all what was very important at the present juncture, that those two Parties were not altogether co-equal. Furthermore, while it professed to embarrass the Government it was really intended to help them. They must ask why. First of all, there must be a short speech by the Leader of the Nationalist Party, who never made too long a speech, and was always eloquent and to the point. The hon. Member had intended to be a little shorter than he was, when he saw that some were on the watch and on the guard. The calculation was that the Chief Secretary would make a very brief reply, accepting the main points advanced by the Leader of the Nationalist Party, and then the poor, muddled followers of the Nationalist Leader, who, frankly speaking, were bubbling over with anxiety to speak, were once more all to be muzzled; the Motion would be withdrawn; and the Plural Voting Bill would be rushed through Committee, and a very successful plot would be brought to an end. But that had not succeeded because some of them were determined to examine very briefly the merits of the Motion now before the House. They had heard an eloquent and impressive speech from the hon. Member for Waterford. He was always eloquent and impressive to those Members who had not heard his speeches before. But to-night he was not only eloquent and impressive but pathetic. They had heard that pathos before—those of them who had spent years in that sombre temple. But although he had heard that pathos before he was not unmoved by it. He pitied still those unfortunate women and children who had been driven to their present misery, which the hon. Member had so pathetically described. That misery had been caused by following the policy of hon. Members below the gangway. The hon. Member mourned over those evicted tenants and so did most kind, human-hearted men. What was the hon. Member's remedy? He would restore one set of men and evict other honest, industrious, law-abiding people in order to provide for the poor dupes whom he had misled and placed in their position of misery. When the House came to understand the farce a little better, a farce which would, when oftener played than it was now—[A NATIONALIST: And which you are still playing]—they would estimate it at its proper value and see through it as Unionists did who had been in the House for many years.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the House must have been greatly impressed by the heroic speech of the hon. Member who had just sat down. The hon. Member had described a dark and sinister plot concocted between the hon. Member for Waterford and the Government Whips, and how he had stood in the breach and destroyed that plot so suddenly sprung on the House. He could not help constrasting the speech just made with the language used with regard to those unfortunate victims of this social struggle when the Land Purchase Act of 1903 was passing through the House. Was such language used then? No. On the contrary, colleague after colleague of the hon. Member rose and joined with the Nationalists in asking that its provisions should be made to include these unfortunate victims. It showed very little improvement in the sense of political fitness when three years after the passing of that Act language such as that uttered by the hon. Gentleman could be used in this House. The House knew perfectly well there would have been no Land Purchase Act if these people had been excluded from its provisions. It was the hampering and harassing nature of the regulations laid down for their guidance under the Act that tied the hands of the Estates Commissioners very largely, and the Nationalist Members rejoiced to see the present Government had cancelled those instructions. But even so, the greater progress during the last few months, since the present Government had been in office, had been terribly slow. It was heartbreaking to the people of Ireland. During all this time, only eighty-six evicted tenants out of 5,000 had been reinstated, and that with all the enormous power the Land Commissioners had at their disposal. Ireland hoped to see the Liberal Government going forward in a whole-hearted way to a settlement of this question. The Irish Party had always felt that these persons had a genuine claim to their support. That support they would continue to have, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the present Secretary for Ireland would take advantage of the opportunity given by the peace and tranquility which now obtained in Ireland to make a great attempt to settle this question.

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said the hon. Member for North Down certainly paid the Government a compliment by attributing to them highly altruistic conduct in the suggestion that they had been engaged in a plot with the Nationalist Party to bring about a sham fight on the subject before the House, for, whatever else the result, it had certainly delayed the progress of the Plural Voting Bill by three hours. But passing from that to the main question, it must strike many Members of Parliament for British constituencies as a great disappointment that after all the Irish land legislation of the past thirty years, and especially after the great Land Purchase Bill of 1903, the Irish land question should be again before the House, and that, not for the tenth, or the hundredth, or even the one thousandth time, but possibly for the ten thousandth time, and in the acute form of evicted tenants turned out of their little holdings by the edict, perhaps by the whim, of an individual. The hon. Member for North Down had laid the blame for this on the Nationalist Members of Parliament, but as he did not bring forward one word of proof or reason for the statement, it did not call for serious notice. Had British Members of Parliament ever yet realised what was the nature of the Irish land question? There doubtless were in this House more who took an interest in the question, and desired to see it settled, than in any previous House, but it was only by visiting Ireland and studying the conditions on the spot that it could be fully realised. The tenants, as a rule, had built up every stick and stone of their holding, and consequently they clung to it with the deepest affection, and a sentence of eviction was looked upon as a sentence of death. The Bessborough Commission of 1880 reported in those words, adding the quotation—

> "You take my life when you take the means by which I live."

He had the utmost confidence in the Chief Secretary. He was sure no one was more desirous of settling this question and of seeing the evicted tenants replaced in their holdings. There were no doubt great difficulties in the way, but he sincerely hoped that if he could not bring reinstatement about by the present law he would introduce drastic legislation for the purpose.

*MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory) associated himself with his Leader and the Member for South Galway in support of this Motion. The figures adduced from the last Report of the Estates Commissioners showed very clearly that strong action needed to be taken when out of over 5,000 evicted tenants who had sent in claims—the great majority of which were *bona fide*—only 161 had been restored to their homes in three years by the Estates Commissioners. There were no men in Ireland so conscious as the Estates

Commissioners that if there were power to compel landlords to sell untenanted land at a fair price, there would not be an evicted tenant homeless in Ireland to-day. It was clearly laid down in the Report of the Estates Commissioners that since the operation of the Act of 1903, land had been raised 68½ per cent. The only way to deal with the difficulty was by giving compulsory power. There was untenanted land enough in Queen's County to reinstate more than every evicted tenant there. An impossible duty had been placed upon the Estates Commissioners. The right hon. Gentleman might beat about the bush as much as he liked, but he would have to face the situation and confer compulsory powers upon the Estates Commissioners. He believed the right hon. Gentleman had many supporters like the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, and he had only to rise to the occasion to bring forward a measure which would carry out the object desired.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) said he desired to associate himself with his hon. friend the Member for Crewe. He would make no attack whatever upon the Chief Secretary or the policy of the Government, but he desired to strengthen the hands of his right hon. friend by every means in his power to deal with this matter. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford had referred to the condition of Ireland twenty years ago. He himself vividly remembered those days. At that time he was frequently in Ireland, and he saw many terrible scenes enacted, tenants defending their homes against the bailiffs, the police, and the soldiery. The hon. Member for North Down could not understand pathos, and thought the whole question was a sham, but happily the Government had taken it out of the hands of a Party which treated it in that way. Now that there was a Liberal Government supported by a large majority in power they might hope that this question would be advanced towards a settlement. It was a visit to Ireland that first led him to enter Parliament fourteen years ago to vote for the cause of Ireland. Everyone remembered the prolonged struggles of 1893. He had come back to the House after an absence of ten years and found this question in exactly the same position as it was then, notwithstanding the good will of successive Chief Secretaries. It was really time they saw some change. Compulsion had been suggested by the hon. Member for Waterford. Whatever that word might convey to some it had no terrors for him. He knew that compulsion was the only means of obtaining justice for the tenants of Ireland, who had made their farms, taking up soil and seaweed until they had turned the bare rock into an economic holding. Those men in the real sense of the word were the owners rather than the landlords. But they did not want to take away the land from the landlords without paying for it, and the Land Act of 1903 must have led the landlords to believe that they would get a fair price for it. In his opinion drastic measures were necessary to restore these unfortunate men to their holdings, and he should be very happy to vote for the Motion.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) said that hon. Members listening to that debate would probably be given the firm impression that the evicted tenants in whose interest the House was spending some hours of the valuable time of the Government were tenants who had been evicted from land largely composed of stones, barren in its character, and what were termed uneconomic holdings. He desired briefly to point out that the vast majority of the evicted tenants were tenants of one of the most fertile parts of Ireland, and that the demand which was made was that these tenants should be restored—tenants who were evicted justly and fairly, because their rent was in arrears to an extent that would not be tolerated on the English side of the Channel, and because they followed the counsels of the Nationalist Members of Parliament of that day. These tenants were simply weapons in the hands of these Members, and they suffered because they obeyed the requests of the Nationalist Members of that day in order to advance what they were pleased to call "the cause." He could use language quite as earnest as that which had been used by the hon. Member for Waterford; but he did not forget that what was proposed by him was that compulsion should be used to evict tenants who had succeeded those other tenants—that tenants who were law-abiding and rent-paying should now be taken out by force from their holdings and the evicted tenants put in their place. He had no sympathy with any such plan, and he would be slow to think that the hon. Member for Waterford was absolutely sincere in making that demand upon the Government. He had read within the last fortnight that at a certain meeting which the hon. Member for Waterford attended there was a demand made for a more advanced programme for the Nationalist Party in Ireland. What was the reply of the Leader of the Party? He said that time was when the Nationalist Members of Parliament had the people of Ireland behind them, but that was not the case at present. He (Mr. Barrie) interpreted the present Motion rather as an evidence that the hon. Member had a desire to try and please the extreme section of his constituents on the other side of the water than as a proof of his real desire to do anything tangible for those tenants. They had heard various numbers given as the true total of the evicted tenants. He was informed on an authority to which he was bound to give every weight, that the number of *bona fide* evicted tenants in Ireland at present was nearer 500 than 5,000. They had been told that night that the Land Act of 1903 would not have passed if the case of the evicted tenants had not been provided for. He was only a young Member of Parliament, but he had no knowledge that would corroborate that assertion. If the Nationalist Members were so concerned about this small body of evicted tenants, those whom he represented would rather see them use some part of that great fund which had just been collected in America on behalf of "the cause" devoted to placing some of the tenants in small and comfortable holdings. Even if a small sum was used for such a purpose Nationalist Members would have given a token of that sincerity to advance the prosperity of Ireland which the people of England could not yet believe. He remembered when the Plan of Campaign, which left such a train of disaster behind it, was carried out in Tipperary, that a large fund was collected, which, though it was never known, was believed to be finally located in Paris, but this they did know, that not one penny of that fund was ever devoted to the bettering of the condition of these unfortunate people.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said the speech of the hon. Member for North Londonderry was an indication of the spirit of a body of gentlemen now rapidly diminishing in Ireland, who stood as the only barrier between Ireland and the attainment of her national rights. The hon. Member had objected to the time of the House being taken up in discussing the case of the evicted tenants. He himself thought the time taken up had been well occupied. This was not the first time that his Party had championed the cause of the evicted tenants in this House. Whatever the hon. Gentleman might think, he was certain that the Nationalist Party would never be found wanting when it was necessary to speak on their behalf. The hon. Member had shown great solicitude in regard to the evicted tenants, and suggested that Irish public funds should be devoted to their support. He was glad to welcome the adhesion of the hon. Member to the idea that, should it be necessary to start a public fund for the maintenance of the evicted tenants, the Orange Members in the north of Ireland would come forward and assist. His reason for intervening in the debate was his very great interest in this question. He had taken a great interest in it since he first entered Irish public life. He had followed this phase of the land question through all its vicissitudes for a number of years, and he had expressed the widespread feeling of dissatisfaction which prevailed throughout Ireland in regard to it. He regretted that the message of peace which, as they understood, was to be conveyed to the Irish tenants by the Act of 1903 had not found proper expression in the case of the evicted tenants. It had been hoped that by the passing of that Act this melancholy chapter in Irish history would be closed; and the representatives of the Irish people would not be doing their duty if they did not express regret that the question had not been more rapidly settled, looking to the urgency and importance of it. When the Act of 1903 was passed it was fully expected that before many months were over steps would be taken to restore the evicted tenants to their former homes. As his hon. friend the Member for Waterford had said, it was mainly for that reason that they agreed to the passing of the Act of 1903. In supporting that Act on account of the hope it held out to the evicted tenants he believed they had the sympathy of every fair-minded, dispassionate, and charitably disposed man from one end of Ireland to the other. All sections of the people, whether landlords or tenants, were sincerely anxious for the peace of Ireland and the ending of the long strife and hideous social disorder which had for so many years prevailed. Everybody was agreed that the first essential of a settlement, and the only hope of an early settlement, was the speedy treatment of the evicted tenants question. They had been disappointed in that hope—he did not say permanently — from causes into which he did not intend to enter that night, but surely the Chief Secretary was aware of the urgency and importance of the question. Without going into the question generally he might speak of circumstances of which he had intimate personal knowledge, namely, the state of affairs in his own constituency. In the county of Wexford there were something like 200 evicted tenants. Up to a year ago about seventy-three of these tenants had been restored to their holdings, or placed on other farms in the county. During the last twelve months for some extraordinary reason only six cases had been dealt with by the Estates Commissioners. Surely there must be something wrong somewhere when such a small advance had been made with the question in that county. Was it too much to ask the Chief Secretary to take into consideration all the counties of Ireland, as well as the county of Wexford, and to see that some further advance was made? In Wexford they were perhaps more fortunately circumstanced than in some other counties. The Estates Commissioners had at their disposal large tracts of land which they had obtained specially for the purpose of reinstating evicted tenants. Up to last May the Estates Commissioners had purchased 1,744 acres of land, they had agreed to acquire 1,900 acres more, and they were in treaty for 1,000 additional acres—altogether about 4,600 acres in one county. Surely they had a right to expect that some greater progress would be made in the reinstatement of tenants when the Estates Commissioners had so much available land. There was almost sufficient land in the possession of the Commissioners to deal with the case of every evicted tenant in the county of Wexford. The Chief Secretary would no doubt give some reason for the delay. He joined with his hon. colleagues in urging the extreme necessity of dealing promptly and boldly with the question, of utilising all the resources at the command of the Estates Commissioners, and of losing no time in "red tape" or making inquiries about things people knew all about. No settlement of the Irish land question would ever be arrived at or agreed to by the representatives of the Irish people until justice was done to the evicted tenants in every county in Ireland.

MR. BRYCE said he did not for a moment deny the importance of this question. He felt it to be so important that he regretted he had had no notice that the question was going to be brought on to-day by a Motion for the adjournment of the House. He understood some time ago that the hon. Member for Waterford intended to bring forward the question, but it had come entirely as a matter of surprise that it should be raised now in this way. If he had had longer notice it would have been possible for him to fortify himself with facts and opinions obtained from the Estates Commissioners, with whom the management of these affairs rested, and so to have been able to give a more complete and satisfactory statement than was possible with the short notice of three hours. The hon. Member for Waterford had complained that the Estates Commissioners Report was not presented until the end of the session. He did not think that the Estates Commissioners ought to be blamed for that. They were indeed entitled to a good deal of consideration at the hands of the House, because he knew that a large part of their time during the whole of last session was occupied in preparing Answers to the extremely numerous and difficult Questions put in the House by hon. Gentleman opposite demanding information. He entirely denied that it could be fairly said that the Act had failed in dealing with the evicted tenants.

AN HON. MEMBER: Substantially.

MR. BRYCE: No, not substantially; and even if it were so the Irish Government were not responsible. This matter had been entrusted by Parliament to the Estates Comimssioners, over whom the Irish Government had no authority. All that the Irish Government could fairly be blamed for was, if they had not framed proper regulations for the Commissioners, or had failed to give them the necessary staff for their work, or had neglected to apply to Parliament for a needed enlargement of the powers of the Commissioners. He did not think that anyone would say that the Estates Commissioners had failed in their duty. No body of men could have been more zealous or more interested in their work or more prompt to recognise the importance of it. It was impossible they could have brought more sympathy and zeal to their work than they had done, and therefore the Estates Commissioners could not be condemned any more than the Irish Government. The difficulties encountered were very great. He did not know whether the ordinary Scottish or English men knew enough of those difficulties. He did not think they did. For his part he had formerly had no idea of their extent; and if they had not been so great the question of the evicted tenants would have been settled long ago. One attempt was made by the present Secretary for India, but it was defeated by the House of Lords. This new Government had come in, and it would be their endeavour to press forward a settlement of the question. The Government had done their best to cope with the grave evils which confronted them, and they had succeeded to some extent in accelerating progress. He did not want to trouble the House with a mass of figures, but the speech of the hon. Member for Queen's County showed that that hon. Gentleman had not grasped the figures which he had given in answer to the Question earlier in the day. The hon. Member for Queen's County said that only 161 evicted tenants had been restored to their holdings. What were the facts? Three hundred and eighty-one evicted tenants were restored by the landlords on the sale of their estates under the Land Purchase Act, the tenants being assisted by grants from the Estates Commissioners for the equipment of their farms. One hundred and sixty-one evicted tenants were restored directly by the Estates Commissioners, making a total of 541. Of the 5,912 applications received, 1,047 had been finally dealt with up to date. He might add, that a very considerable number of applications had been made which would not bear investigation, and also that in a certain number of cases the tenants had been restored without the knowledge of the Commissioners — the landlords and tenants having agreed between themselves. He did not think that the progress made had been inconsiderable, considering the difficulties which surrounded the question; and it was certainly greater than might be supposed from some of the speeches made that evening.

The Commissioners informed him that of these 1,285 applications inquired into, 377 were cases where the holdings were now in the owners' occupation, and the result as regarded them was as follows—

> "In 161 cases the owner objected to any inspection. In fifty-nine cases offers to purchase, with a view to reinstatement, were made. In nine of these the offer was accepted, and the tenants reinstated. In nineteen the owner replied, refusing to sell at the estimated price. In thirty-one no reply had been received up to the present. In forty-nine cases offers to purchase, with a view to reinstatement, were about to be made. In 108 cases the applications were postponed or struck out for the following causes;—(1) Applicant was not suitable for reinstatement, owing to want of farming experience, habits of industry and competence to work the land as a holding. (2) Applicant had surrendered his holding and received compensation or sold his interest. (3) Applicant was not eligible as a representative of the former evicted tenant. (4) Applicant was only a herd or caretaker, or the holding was not agricultural. (5) The applicant had enough land already."

These figures showed how minute the inquiry which had been made into the different cases.

MR. JOHN REDMOND asked if he was right in gathering from the right hon. Gentleman's statement that afternoon that in 444 cases investigated since the new regulations came into force the landlords had refused to allow the inspectors to visit the land?

MR. BRYCE said he was not sure of the length of time covered, but the total given to him where the landlords had refused to allow inspection was 444.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said that of the 1,285 applications since the Act came into force, 272 had been rejected, and in 444 cases the landlords had refused to allow the inspectors to visit the land.

MR. BRYCE said that that was so. He much regretted that such a course should have been followed. The Government had no power to compel landlords to agree, but he wished public opinion in Ireland could be exerted to show the landlords that their action was disapproved. He meant the public opinion of all right-thinking men, who felt that an Act of Parliament which was passed three years ago to secure the reinstatement of evicted tenants should be given effect to. It was only fair and right that the landlords should respect the intentions of Parliament and give the Estates Commissioners an opportunity of inspecting the land and bringing about the reinstatement of the evicted tenants. He could not but think that public opinion moderately and temperately expressed by all classes in Ireland would have due weight, and that the Act would in consequence be brought to greater fruition. Proceeding with the Report of the Estates Commissioners the right hon Gentleman said—

> "The causes which have impeded the restoration of evicted tenants are the following: (1) Where the evicted farm is in the occupation of another tenant, and he is unwilling to surrender it, no pressure can or ought to be brought to bear on the existing tenant to relinquish his holding in favour of the evicted tenant. In such cases new farms must be provided for the evicted tenants according as untenanted land becomes available for the purpose. Sometimes the evicted tenants are unwilling to migrate to new farms, and prefer to stay in the neighbourhood of their old homes in the hope that they may some day be reinstated in their old holdings. Sometimes the introduction of evicted tenants from a distance on untenanted land meets with local opposition. It would be easier to overcome this if the persuasions and efforts of the Commissioners' Inspectors were re-inforced by public opinion. (3) As regards farms in the owners' occupation, landlords who are unwilling to agree to their speedy restoration are, it is believed, influenced by the following considerations. (*a*) If the owners were to reinstate evicted tenants as their own tenants without entering into agreements for the sale of the holding, the Estates Commissioners could not under Section 12 of the Act make any advances to such reinstated tenants or any grants for equipping the farms, since the estate would not be one that has been sold or is proposed to be sold under the Act of 1903, and if an impoverished evicted tenant were to go back to his former holding as tenant without such grant the landlord would have no security for his rent. (*b*) If an evicted farm is sold as a separate 'estate,' terms of sale not having been arranged for the other holdings on the estate, the owner would have all the expense of proving title for one evicted farm just as he would if the whole estate were sold. Some owners also entertain the view that they should not be expected to restore evicted tenants unless in connection with the sale of their estates as a whole. (*c*) Some owners are believed to fear that if they were to sell evicted farms to the Commissioners at the comparatively low price which the Commissioners could offer to advance, in view of the farms having been derelict and neglected, then such prices would set up a standard which would regulate the offers which other tenants on the estate would make when the rest of the estate was being sold. As to the difficulties (*a*) and (*b*) the Commissioners have intimated that they are willing to declare evicted farms when the tenants are reinstated to be separate 'estates' and to give them immediate priority. Where the number of evicted tenants reinstated is considerable the Commissioners are willing to give priority to the whole property, and thus expedite the payment of purchase money. Where the owner does not wish to make the evicted farms separate 'estates,' but enters into a purchase agreement to sell to an evicted tenant at prices approved by the Commissioners as soon as the estate as a whole is being sold, the Commissioners are willing to make grants to the reinstated evicted tenants to equip their farms and so give them a fair chance of succeeding. The owners will also in this way have security for interest in lieu of rent on the price agreed on, while the reinstated tenant may remain on paying such interest pending the sale of the whole estate. It should be remembered that the work of the past five months has been largely in the nature of preliminary inquiries and negotiations which cannot be expected to be immediately brought to a successful issue and some time must be given to enable those investigations to bear fruit. The Commissioners propose to continue their inquiries as to the remaining applicants for another period of six months, and that a larger staff should be employed and that all applications may be inquired into within that period, if possible. It should be added that as regards the principal estates in which the Plan of Campaign was adopted and which are referred to in the *ad interim* Report of the Commissioners, dated the 10th of April, 1905, the cases of the evicted tenants on the Ponsonby, Lansdowne, and Brooke estates have been practically settled. Negotiations are actually in progress for the settlement of the Massereene, Lewis and Byrne estates. Negotiations are also in progress for the settlement of the evicted tenants question on the Vandeleur estate. The Government is fully aware of the difficulty of bringing about any settlement on the Clanricarde estate."

The Report of the Estates Commissioners would give the House some idea of the complexity of the question which they had to deal with. It must be borne in mind that effect was not given to a great deal which was promised and hoped for when the Act of 1903 was passed. A great many questions arose upon the interpretation of the Act which caused considerable difficulty, and for a time tied the hands of the Commissioners. For instance, there was a regulation made by the late Government that the evicted tenants could not be reinstated except in connection with the purchase of the whole estate upon which the holding was from which he had been evicted. That regulation had a most important effect upon the working of the Act. Then serious doubt was thrown upon the power of the Commissioners to buy untenanted land in order to reinstate tenants, and that question was only determined at the end of last year, or early this year, when it was found that the Commissioners had that power. The withdrawal of the old regulations, the making of the new regulations, which considerably extended the work of the Commissioners, and the decision of these legal points, at length, so to speak, untied the hands of the Commissioners, and enabled them to set to work in a far better and more energetic way, and with a far greater hope of obtaining substantial results than was possible before. They were further strengthened by being given six new inspectors, and he thought that looking to the results obtained since the appointment of those inspectors, it must be recognised that far more than rapid progress had been made and more important results obtained. What the inspectors had done had very greatly cleared the way for the future. He thought the hon. Member for Waterford entirely undervalued the results which had been obtained by the investigations of these inspectors during the last five months. He would now tell the House something of the methods on which the Commissioners were proceeding. If a landlord was not selling the whole of his estate the Commissioners had now found their proper course to be to declare a separate farm to be a separate estate, and they were going to act boldly and largely on that. Where a substituted tenant held a farm, in some cases he could not be induced to give it up, and there was no power to eject him. In some cases such a tenant was willing to take money compensation, and the Estates Commissioners had in some cases given that compensation, and had used the power in their hands for that purpose pretty freely. But in some cases, where there was no money compensation given, he was willing to take a new farm altogether, but the power of dealing with him in that way depended upon whether a new farm could be got for him. With regard to the settlement of an evicted tenant on untenanted land in a new neighbourhood, this required a great deal of tact. The best plan generally was to approach the neighbourhood beforehand and to let it be known that, although they must consent to the bringing in of strangers, that operation and the operation of the enlargement of holdings would be carried on simultaneously. The hon. Member for Waterford had spoken of the sympathy in Ireland for the evicted tenant. He thought this was a practical mode of showing that sympathy, and he thought they ought to appeal to those among whom the Commissioners proposed to settle evicted tenants not to receive them with harshness and unkindness. He was in hopes that when experience was gained, and if judgment was exercised, these difficulties, serious as they were, would be overcome. The quantity of untenanted land, however, was limited, especially in Ulster and Munster. Even in Connaught, he believed, there was not more than about one-third of what would be wanted to raise all small uneconomic holdings to the level of reasonable economic holdings. Therefore the question was a very grave one. As to the general question of what was to be done in the future, work might be done partly by administration and partly by legislation. As regarded administration the work of the last six months had shown the Commissioners how they might work out their plans. It had also shown them how they might give priority in the cases of evicted tenants. He believed there was ample power to exercise discretion as to giving priority to particular cases; and he believed the fact that social order was involved in this question was a very sound reason why such priority should be given. Upon this part of the subject he thought he was entitled — they were all entitled—to make an appeal to the landlords. [A NATIONALIST: Not much use, I am afraid.] He thought in the great majority of cases the landlords might allow bygones to be bygones. They might recognise that this was a matter in which the peace and well-being of the country was involved, and, realising the gravity of the case, they might recognise the duty of being more willing to help than heretofore they had shown themselves to be. There were a great many landlords who as heartily wished the welfare of their country and their fellow-countrymen as any of them could do, and he would respectfully venture to appeal to them to give the Executive the help they could so powerfully render by letting the Commissioners go on with the work of reinstatement where they had not some great and solid reason in a contrary sense, outside political prejudice and passion, which this land war had unfortunately excited. He would, however, tell the House his own mind upon the subject. As a member of the Congested Districts Board, he had come to learn the extreme difficulty of getting the untenanted land which the Congested Districts Board required for the purpose of settling small tenants from the congested regions of the west. It was only with the greatest difficulty that the Board were able to obtain that land, and he was seriously obliged to consider whether if that difficulty continued, and if the necessity for dealing more rapidly with the problem of congestion became more and more recognised, it might not be necessary to arm them with further powers for the acquisition of land. That was a question which was under consideration, and he ought not to say more than to tell the House the impression made upon his own mind by the experience he had gained as the head of that Board. He could not help feeling that what might be true of the Congested Districts Board might be not less true in regard to the work of the Estates Commissioners. He was not at all satisfied that the way the bonus was now spent and given was either the way in which Parliament desired it should be spent or the way in which it attained the maximum of good. He ought not to express any more than doubts at this moment, because this was a subject which would require very serious consideration, especially as the Act of 1903 provided that next year the Treasury should be permitted to revise the system, although any change would not come into effect till the year after. Even supposing the question of the bonus were dealt with, it would be but a partial remedy. He thought the real difficulty was the difficulty of getting untenanted lands. For that some remedy must be found, and if the remedy lay in compulsion—well, to that remedy they might have to come. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford seemed to have made assumptions which were quite groundless as to the attitude of the Government, when he assumed that they had been backward in dealing with this question. That was not so; on the contrary, the Government had done all in their power, and they had accepted every single suggestion made to them for extending the operation of the Act and accelerating its progress. He admitted that it was a question of great gravity, because it was a question of sound order. He had recognised that from the first, and they should continue to recognise it. It was a question out of which many of the troubles, disturbances, outrages, and breaches of the peace during the last twenty years or thirty years had arisen in Ireland, and anything that would put an end to that state of things would be a boon to that country. The Government would continue to work earnestly upon this problem, but they would work a great deal more effectively if they had the support of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford and his friends in endeavouring to preserve tranquility and order in Ireland.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: You have had it.

MR. BRYCE appealed to the Leader of the Irish Party to help in keeping tranquility and good order in the country, to continue to exert all the influence he possessed to keep the people quiet and to believe, as they ought, that the Government were trying to do their best for them. As he appealed to the landlords on the one side, so he appealed to the popular leaders on the other. Nothing would strengthen the hands of the Government so much as to have a quiet Ireland to deal with; and he believed that, if Ireland remained tranquil, and if that public spirit was shown on both sides where so grave a question as this was involved, affecting the future of Ireland, with the support of the House, and with the earnestness which the Government desired to show in the matter, this ancient sore might soon be healed.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin County, S.) thought that the Irish Members had secured a complete triumph over the Government in this debate. The speech of the Chief Secretary involved the complete surrender of the Government on the main points of the land problem and to the views so long advanced by the Nationalists. The right hon. Gentleman had also attempted to shift the responsibility for the delay in carrying out the Act on to the Estates Commissioners and the late Government. But the regulations about which the House had heard so much were issued in July of last year, and they were immediately repealed by the present Government on coming into office, so that the new regulations did not appear to have had any material effect as compared with the old. The Chief Secretary had not touched on the difficult aspect of the problem that there was a large number of tenants who would not come within the description of evicted tenants used throughout the debates preceding the Act of 1903. The Government had to face the difficulty of differentiating among those tenants as to who were deserving and who were not, and they had also to deal with the difficult problem of the uneconomic holding. He had listened with some surprise to the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman to the landlords. The Leader of the Nationalists had referred to 440 cases where the landlords had refused to allow the estate valuers to go on to their property to carry out the work of valuation. If there were cases in which the landlords had unfairly exercised their rights, he was not concerned to defend them; but before the landlords were condemned wholesale, more ought to be known of the circumstances in which their refusal was made; and what demands were made upon the landlords by the Estates Commissioners and the valuers. If this was to be used as evidence on which they were to condemn, convict, and sentence the landlords, they ought to know more about it than they knew after the very poor and insufficient statement which had been placed before them. He assumed that the Estates Commissioners would give the landlords an opportunity of stating their case before they took what had been said as the fact. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Estates Commissioners were going to exercise their powers to give priority to estates where such priority was necessary in the interests of social order. That was a very dangerous step for the Government to take. Parliament did not vote £120,000,000 to settle the land question in order that the Government might act in this way.

MR. BRYCE explained that what he said was that the Commissioners in their discretion would give priority to estates where there was a large number of evicted tenants.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the right hon. Gentleman used the words "in the interests of social order."

MR. BRYCE: Yes, that referred to the evicted tenants.

MR. WALTER LONG: Exactly, and it meant that priority was to be given to estates where disturbance and intimidation was going on.

MR. BRYCE: I never meant anything of the sort. It would have just the opposite effect.

MR. WALTER LONG said that he could not understand what the right hon. Gentleman meant by this priority in that case. The only fair priority to observe was that in which the applications were received. At present many landlords and tenants who had entered into agreements were being kept waiting, and every step of this kind meant more delay for them. In many cases some of the best of the tenants in Ireland were anxious to become possessors of their own holdings, but if the declaration of the Chief Secretary meant anything it meant that priority was to be given to those tenants who were not the best.

MR. BRYCE: It is not a matter within my discretion, but within that of the Estates Commissioners. They may give priority to an estate where there are a large number of evicted tenants and thereby settle a long-standing social question.

MR. WALTER LONG said that that involved injustice to those estates where there was no social disorder, and the only fair and proper priority was priority of application. As the cases were considered and settled by the Court they should be dealt with and the tenants who applied first should be dealt with first.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said this speech of the Chief Secretary would be welcome because it clearly indicated that the Government saw the necessity of granting compulsory powers in certain cases to the Estates Commissioners. Unless they got compulsory powers against such landlords as Lord Clanricarde the owners would never sell their land. The speech of the Chief Secretary showed that he was coming round to the general view held in Ireland as to the absolute necessity of having some compulsory powers for the acquisition of land. He did not think there would be any difficulty in getting such powers granted by the present Parliament, because hon. Members were aware that in many parts of the Empire compulsory powers had already been granted by the Government for the acquisition of land for the common good. There was no question whatever of taking anything without payment.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Motion for Adjournment lapsed without Question put.

---

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at the end, to insert the words, 'in the event of the person's name being removed from the register the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at four minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Tuesday, 30th October*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).

Petitions against, of inhabitants of the parishes of Tytherington; Dingley; Kingsdown; Heselton; East Carlton; Ashley; South Luffenham; Worksop; Heywood; St. Mary Church; Turton; Ilsham (Torquay); Brighton; Llansantfraed; Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke; Kentish Town; Combe Martin; Nursling; Failsworth; Stanford and Postling; Churchdown; Twickenham; Mark Cross; Bockleton; Stratford (St. Columba); Leyton District; Loxhore; Portbury; Little Gaddesden; Ilsham (Torquay); Llanfacreth; Thurnham; Walthamstow (St. Barnabas); Rainham; Luton, near Chatham; Lower Darwen; Haverstock Hill (Saint Andrew's); Whitechapel District (near Preston); Heyshott; Glazebury; Dore and Totley; Little Baddow; Maldon (All Saints); Barford; Westgate; Otterham; Kirby Bedon; Maney, Sutton Coldfield; Sutton Coldfield; Burnsall; Little Dewchurch; Bromfield; Staverton; Camden Square, St. Paul's (2); Bolas Magna; Durham, St. Oswald's; Barnes, Holy Trinity, Castlenau; Toynton Spilsby; Derby; Wolverhampton, Saint Matthew's; Hognaston; Newport; W. Lulworth; Otford; Birmingham, St. Cuthbert's; Gravesend and Wilton; Llanybyther; Oxentswn; Kirkmanshulme, St. Cyprian's; Barmston; Kentish Town (Saint Benet and All Saints); Ewelme; Burmarsh; Billesden; Martindale; Hawkesbury; Muswell Hill; Heybridge; Pattishall; Lew; Wickham Market; Llanevenog; Halam; Ore, near Hasting; Kingston-by-the-Sea; Bletchley; Latimer Road (Holy Trinity); Forest Gate (All Saints); Winchester (St. John's Hospital); Oldcastle; Milnthorpe; Howe Bridge; Framfield; Uffington; Tenbury; Romiley; Alveston; Leeds (St. Saviour's); Dunsforth; Lilleshall; Blackburn St. John's; Chittlehampton, Llanbavarn and Cilcennin; Little Munden; West Stockwith; Dorney, near Windsor; Southport, St. Luke's; Shelfanger; Locking; Fritton, Great Yarmouth; Thatcham; Hungarton; Twyford; Thorpe Satchville; Vaynor; Otterbourne; Southampton (St. Barnabas); Lever Bridge; Beeston Hill (Leeds); Ightham; Norwich (St. Helen's); Westfields; West Ashley; Dowlish Wake; Peckleton; Forden; Covenham; Westminster (St. Matthew's); Hatfield (St. Mary); Pendoylan; Dunton; Whit Lane; Oaksey; East Ardsley; Baxterley; Merevale; Manchester (St. Stephen's); Colverley; Barrowford; Kingston-upon-Hull; Cramlington; Bettws Bledws; Whittington and Newton-with-Dachnen; Goodleigh; Clewer St. Stephen, Windsor; Upton Park; Askham Richard; Baslow; Hampstead; Rawmarsh; Doncaster; Normanton; Podymore; Blackheath; Aston-Somerville; Kirton-in-Lindsay; Offchurch, Ryde; Hulland; South Stoke; Hoddlesden; Sellack; Levenshulme; Pudsey; Athelhampton; of parents of children attending schools in the parishes of Heselton; Stoke Albany; Wilbarston; South Luffenham; and in the Deanery of Weldon; of trustees of Church of England schools in the diocese of Salisbury; of managers of Marple National School.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).

Petition for amendment of: (1) of inhabitants of the parish of Wigginton; (2) of the Rev. J. T. Kingsmill, rector of Hockering. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### COLONIES—ANNUAL.

No. 506. Mauritius (Report for 1905).

### TREATY SERIES, NO. 15 (1906).

Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting the boundary between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska; signed at Washington, 21st April, 1906 (ratifications exchanged at Washington, 16th August, 1906).

Presented, by Command, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Two Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906—amending the Orders in Council of 9th May, 1891, and 23rd November, 1893, in regard to the grant of colonial certificates of competency; relating to seamen's lodging-houses in the city and county of Kingston-upon-Hull.

### NAVAL SAVINGS BANK ACT, 1866.

Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, approving new regulations for the administration of naval savings banks.

### FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881 (NATAL).

Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, directing that an Act passed by the Legislature of Natal (No. 13 of 1906) shall be recognised and given effect to throughout His Majesty's Dominions and on the High Seas as if it were part of the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881.

### FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Four Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, entitled: The East Africa Order in Council, 1906; The Ashanti Order in Council, 1906; The Northern Territories Order in Council, 1906; The Gold Coast Boundaries Order in Council, 1906.

### CRIMINAL LUNATICS ACT, 1860 (PARKHURST CRIMINAL LUNATIC ASYLUM).

Rules made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 5 of the Act, for Parkhurst Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3a To-morrow.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL).

Order of the Day read for the House being again in Committee on this Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

[THE EARL OF ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Moved, "That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said that before the Motion which had just been moved was put to their Lordships for decision he desired to say a few words upon Clause 1 as a whole. He was ready to vote for this clause, because he was in favour of the two principles which, they were told, it embodied, complete popular control, and that no religious tests should be imposed upon the teaching profession as such. Those principles he had, he thought, always supported, and he was certainly prepared to support them now. But he and many others wished it to be perfectly clear that he did so with this understanding, that the principle of complete popular control did not take away from them the obligation of making provision that different arrangements should be made, or should be capable of being made, in the case of the different classes of schools which would come under the purview of the Education Department as a whole. Different sorts of schools would have to be treated in different kinds of ways. The further principle, that no religious tests should be imposed upon members of the teaching profession as such, must be compatible, as a mere matter of common sense, with the ascertaining by somebody whether a man or woman who was going to give religious teaching was qualified for that particular work. It must be clearly understood that on these two points they had in no way tied their hands as regarded the later clauses of the Bill which they would have to consider in detail.

He had quoted the other night the speech of the Minister for Education to a deputation of denominational managers, and had asked that it should be made clear, if possible, how effect would be given in the Bill to the principles that were there very clearly laid down. The President of the Council had on that occasion answered that Mr. Birrell had not meant that the denominational authorities should have the power of appointing the teacher. Nobody ever supposed he did mean that; but what they did suppose, and what pacified a great many people and led them to look more favourably on this Bill, was that something was to be done in the direction indicated by Mr. Birrell.

> "The intention of the clause certainly is that the teachers should remain the same as they are, those who are most qualified to give the particular religious instruction which has hitherto been given in the schools."

Those were Mr. Birrell's words, that the schools—

> "should be carried on just as they are now."

If that was made clear in some phrases in the Bill by a Government Amendment, well and good; if not, it devolved on them to give effect to what was a clear, righteous, and proper arrangement. Sir H. Fowler, also, in the House of Commons had given something like an undertaking that on the Report stage the matter should be made clearer than it was. Popular anxieties were allayed by speeches of that kind, yet they did not find these assurances embodied in the Bill. He had spoken in sober earnest the other night when he said they anticipated that the Government would bring forward the Amendments which were foreshadowed by such speeches, but, if that did not happen, it could not be regarded as anything but right and fair that those points should be made clear in Amendments coming from elsewhere.

When they came to deal with particular schools, it would be necessary to frame words which would provide for some definite and positive teaching. He wanted to be absolutely fair in this matter, and it was in that spirit he asked that they might be given to understand more clearly than they did now how these good, sound, and wholesome principles were expected to be put in practice. They were, it is true, going to ask for other things than those which had been foreshadowed in Mr. Birrell's and other speeches, but it did seem to him singularly strange that they should be accused outside if not inside the House of doing something wrecking by pressing Amendments to give, literally, effect to what the public believed was going to be done on the strength of the assurances he had read to the House. Even on this clause he found a good deal of difficulty in understanding what was the meaning of its words when applied to some subsequent parts of the Bill.

It seemed that there was a clear contradiction between Clause 1 and another portion of the Bill. The clause laid down that no school was to be regarded as a public elementary school unless it was a provided school. The Bill went on to say, in Clause 5, that there was to be another class of schools, State-aided schools, which were to be capable of receiving grants. That was a little puzzling because that class of schools would not be under the control of the local authority, and yet they were going to receive grants. He understood that difficulty was got over by saying they were not technically to be public elementary schools. But when he referred to Clause 96 of the fundamental Act of 1870, which was not repealed by this Bill, he found it clearly laid down that—

> "No Parliamentary grant shall be paid to any elementary school which is not a public elementary school under the terms of this Act."

There might be some blunder in the matter which was quite capable of explanation, but he thought they were entitled to an explanation before they passed from this clause. That might seem to be a mere technical point, but it was characteristic of the kind of things which the Bill seemed to him to be full of — apparent contradictions which they found it impossible to reconcile. They had hoped that, in the interval which had elapsed between the stormy and difficult debates in the other House and now, some of those things would have been elucidated and, in the calmer atmosphere of their Lordships' House, would have been explained at the outset of their debates That had not been found possible, but they must not be supposed to be doing something unreasonable or unfair if they tried by degrees to elicit those explanations they had hoped would have been forthcoming in another way.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, I need not say that we have no complaint to make of the most rev. Primate for having said a few words before this clause becomes part of the Bill. I am bound to say, however, that it never occurred to us to imagine that he would necessarily take the words "public control," which, after all, do not appear in the first clause of the Bill, or the expression "tests for teachers" in exactly the same sense that we do; and if, in considering the future clauses of the Bill, the most rev. Primate decides that he puts a different construction on those words from that which we put on them, and desires to translate his opinion into action, we only have to look at the benches opposite to see that it is clearly within his power to do so. Equally we can assure the most rev. Primate that it never would occur to us to accuse him of any moral inconsistency because, after having permitted the first clause to become part of the Bill, he desired to make certain modifications in future clauses.

Now, as regards the expressions used by my right hon. friend Mr. Birrell, which the most rev. Primate again read to the House, I have no hesitation in repeating that I stand by those expressions, and I cannot understand how anyone could have been misled by them. It is perfectly true that we do desire Clause 4 to be a genuine clause, offering genuine facilities for a certain class of schools to be carried on in the manner in which they have been carried on heretofore. Of course, the most rev. Primate can say, if he likes, that the words which we have placed in the Bill do not carry out our intention, but that is, and must be, a matter of opinion. It is a matter for argument, and I have no doubt that when the time comes to consider that clause and the other clauses which the most rev. Primate may include under the head of those alluded to, those points will be fully and fairly argued out.

I now come to the last point which the most rev. Primate raised. He said that it was a matter of some astonishment that the clause should stand in the form it does when there is a distinct apparent exception to it in the words of Clause 5, which, under certain circumstances, into which I will not now go, permit the creation of what is known as a State-aided school. The point is purely a verbal one. It is not a point of substance. It is really a drafting point. What happened in the House of Commons was this. The State-aided schools were, as noble Lords will remember, a late creation in the Bill. They were a concession to the friends of noble Lords opposite, and therefore they did not appear in the original Bill. When it was proposed that they should be mentioned in Clauses 4 and 5 objection was, I am bound to say not unnaturally, taken to what appeared to be an exception to the principle already laid down in Clause 1. The matter was submitted to the Chairman of Committees, and he decided, on the point of order, that there was no reason why Clauses 4 and 5 containing that provision should not be inserted. He said that in the first place he was not satisfied that these schools would be public elementary schools at all, but he gave as his real reason that the exception constituted under this clause was not one of substance, and therefore was not barred. He instanced a parallel case from the Act of 1902, the effect of which is that no school can be a public elementary school which is not administered by the local education authority. If that is good enough for the Chairman of the House of Commons, I can only say that it is good enough for us, too, as at present advised. It is a purely verbal question, because noble Lords will see that it is very easy to make an addition to the first clause which would entirely meet the case; but if it is considered by the authorities of the other House that it is not necessary, we do not propose to make the addition.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said it was perfectly easy to understand why there was an exception in this particular matter. His point was that, as the clause now stood, the exception was in direct contradiction with the unrepealed section of the fundamental Act of 1870. At this moment the West Riding judgment had proved to them the need of being very clear as to what exactly they intended to prescribe. They had learned how possible, through inadvertence, it was to bring on something which was different from what was intended, and was it not right that in these circumstances they should ask before they passed this particular clause how they were to reconcile the apparent contradiction he had pointed out ?

LORD OVERTOUN said he was anxious to repudiate, with all the earnestness he could, the taunt that had been thrown at those noble Lords who voted against the Amendment last night, that they were opposed to religious instruction being given in the schools. With many other noble Lords he yielded to none on the other side of the House in the earnest desire that the children of this country should have religion as the basis of their education. They firmly believed that that was the only solid and sure basis on which a satisfactory education could be established. What they objected to was the placing of the Amendment where it was put without the slightest explanation of what it meant. He believed that noble Lords opposite were making political capital out of this great question of religious education. He associated himself with what was said last night by his noble friend the Marquess of Northampton, that they would do evil for this country if they divided their forces, which were, on the whole, on the side of religious education, and charged each other with believing in secularism. As the clause at present stood it meant nothing, and he repudiated the taunt that was thrown across the House last night that noble Lords who voted against the Amendment were opposed to religious education.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the noble Lord's speech was in the nature of a personal explanation as to why he voted against the Amendment last night. He did not think he had ever heard so rapid a repudiation of a vote. If they wanted an assurance that they were justified in insisting upon the Amendment they had it in the speech of the noble Lord. In opposing the Amendment last night the Government were virtually allowing the children in the schools of local authorities who did not give religious instruction to be brought up as atheists. The confession of a wrong action was a generous action.

LORD OVERTOUN: I did not repudiate my vote; I repudiated the taunt that was thrown at us.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said the spirit that actuated the supporters of the Amendment was to insist upon religious education of some sort or other, he cared not what. It would be impossible for the noble Lord opposite to ask the country to vote against the House of Lords on this question. The most rev. Prelate had shown how necessary it was that there should be a second Chamber to revise this inconsistent and ill-drafted Bill, and to reconcile the speeches of various Members of the Government with the Bill. The Government had thrown over the Act of 1870. It was never intended by that Act to squeeze out the voluntary schools. In 1870 it was intended that the voluntary schools and the Board schools should work side by side for the efficiency of education, and the religious atmosphere which the denominational schools cast over the population of the whole country was admired. Yet the first clause in this Bill proposed absolutely to abolish these schools. Therefore, if their attitude towards the Act of 1870 had changed, that change was due to the change in the attitude of the Government towards these schools. The more this Bill was examined the more it would be found necessary for their Lordships to examine every one of its details.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, my noble friend behind me, Lord Russell, in the admirable speech which he made last night, said that it looked very much as if the main object of noble Lords opposite was to lay the foundation for a political attack upon the Government in the country. I quite admit that there were some passages last night that looked in that direction, but I am so little accustomed to bring charges of that kind against my political opponents —I am always so anxious to believe what I ask them to believe of me, namely, that they are actuated by public desires and not by partisan motives—that I did not in the least degree endorse the opinion of my noble friend. But I confess that the speech to which we have just listened is a confirmation of the speech of my noble friend. The noble Marquess who has just sat down does intend, and he has told us so frankly, to go to the country upon this question.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: I cannot go to the country on this question.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE (to the Marquess of Ripon): Will you?

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: You can go and make speeches in the country. You can exercise that tasteful eloquence for which you are distinguished in every part of the country. I say that that is going to the country. It is preparing for a general election, and it is a confirmation of the view which I regretted had been enunciated last night by my noble friend behind me. Beyond that, the noble Marquess made an observation to which I must ask your Lordships' permission to refer. I feel that this discussion has wandered a good deal, and if my noble friend in the Chair had the powers of the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons we should not have got into a discussion upon this question at all; but, as it has been entered upon, I must say a few words upon the reference which was made by the noble Marquess to the Act of 1870.

The noble Marquess said that we were attacking the Act of 1870, that we were destroying the Act of 1870, that we were disregarding the Act of 1870. No, my Lords, *you* destroyed the Act of 1870, *you* tore to pieces the compromise upon which it was founded. I quite admit that the Act of 1870 was capable of improvement. After thirty years of existence no doubt it was capable of amendment. But you broke up that compromise, and if you find yourselves now in a position which you do not like, if the friends of denominational schools feel, as I feel for them, that they are in a very difficult position, that difficulty and that position are due to your proceedings. If you had amended the Act of 1870, if you had adhered to the terms upon which it was founded, if you had kept off voluntary schools from the rates, you would never have been where you are to-day, and we should not have been discussing this Bill. Therefore, I cannot admit for one moment that we are destroying the Act of 1870. You cannot do such things as you did in 1902 and not have to bear the consequences. You cannot pass an Act like that of 1902 and then ask to go back to the position in which you stood before you passed it. You altered the whole position of the education question by that Act, and if you do not like the feeling of the country at the present moment, and the position in which you now stand, it is due to what was done in 1902.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK said that the most rev. Primate at the beginning of his speech let fall an expression which might be taken as meaning that in not opposing the present Motion they were, in effect, passing Clause 1. He desired, therefore, to repeat what he had said before, that in allowing Clause 1 to pass he and those who thought with him in no way prejudiced their right to support Amendments in matters upon which they felt most strongly. They retained a perfectly clear hand to pass, reject, modify, or improve Clause 1 at a later stage, so far as the House would allow them.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: Is the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council prepared to give me an Answer to the Question I put to him?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: As to the point raised by the most rev. Primate with regard to the Act of 1870, I have to say that if the most rev. Primate is of opinion that the provision in subsection (5) of Clause 5 is not clear as a matter of drafting I shall be able, when the time comes, to suggest to him a small verbal Amendment.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: It is not a question of opinion. The two things are contradictory. If after this interval there are contradictory things of this kind it goes far to justify the care we think necessary to bestow upon details.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I only rise for the purpose of expressing the hope that the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council will lay on the Table as soon as he can the words by means of which he proposes to cure the defect to which the most rev. Primate has pointed. And let me take this opportunity of expressing the surprise which some of us feel that no Amendments of any kind, so far as we are aware, have been put upon the Table on behalf of noble Lords opposite. It seems to us almost inconceivable that this Bill, complicated as its provisions are, riddled as some of them have been in debate, many of them not even discussed at all—it seems to us inconceivable that His Majesty's Ministers should regard the Bill as being at this moment incapable of improvement, and should not raise even a little finger for the purpose of assisting your Lordships in the task of improving it. The noble Earl, in reply to the most rev. Primate, treated this strange discrepancy between Clause 5 and the Act of 1870 as purely a verbal point; but we regard it as a point of very great significance, because we rely to some extent upon that point in order to establish a proposition upon which we shall continue to insist—I mean the proposition that Clause 1 of this Bill, broad and general as its terms are, is not to be interpreted as precluding us from discussing hereafter the means of creating what I think the noble Earl himself called in last night's debate schools of various patterns. He must, therefore, expect us from time to time to treat these points, not as merely verbal and insignificant points, but as points of great importance.

On Question, Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2:—

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY moved to omit the words "for the purpose of continuing" in order to insert "shall, if required by the owners, continue." This, he said, was the first of a group of Amendments by which it would be made obligatory upon a local authority to take over a school if the trustees desired the transfer and the school was in itself suitable. He had no sort of wish to force the local authority to take over buildings which were structurally unsuitable. In the concluding paragraph of a subsequent Amendment he added a proviso that, if the local authority considered the school buildings to be unsuited for continued recognition, that authority might appeal to the Board of Education and the Board might release the local authority from the obligation.

What he asked for was that with an ordinary school in a suitable building it should not be in the power of a local education authority simply to decline to take the transfer. Since 1870, and long before, the State had deliberately encouraged the building of this particular class of schools, and if now this obligation were not imposed upon the authority a school upon which large expenditure and much care had been bestowed to meet the requirements of parents in the locality might, at the mere whim of a passing majority of the local authority's committee, be left derelict, to the great hardship of all concerned. He argued that a moral obligation rested upon the State to fulfil the promises virtually made again and again, and that the facilities under Clause 3 should be compulsory. If the Amendment were not made there might be many places in which the facilities provisions would become totally inoperative through the arbitrary action of the local authority.

This was a parents' question more than anything else, and it was for the liberty of the parents' choice that he was mainly contending. He wished to render impossible the hardship resulting to parents in the case he supposed. At the very time when the Minister of Education was reiterating in perfect good faith that the facilities promised under Clause 3 were genuine and practically general, certain of his friends—fellow-Members—were assuring their constituents that this was a matter of local option, and such local option if fully exercised would operate to prevent these troublesome "facilities." A local authority might bring a kind of pressure of the most unfair kind to bear upon owners and managers of local schools. They might say: "If you consent, as a matter of agreement between us, to waive any right to facilities, then we will take over your school; if you insist upon facilities, we shall decline to take it."

There were many places where there had been overbuilding of provided schools. He had referred to the statistics in the Blue-book and had found case after case where, after making the fullest allowance for the qualifications which might affect the statistical accuracy, it was clear how great would be the economical gain to the authority if it were to suppress the voluntary schools altogether. Guarding himself against appearing to quote the figures as finally accurate, he would point out how it appeared—to take two instances only out of many—that in Halifax there were 4,457 and in Portsmouth 4,830 vacant places in the provided schools, while at the same time there were only 2,490 children in the voluntary schools of Halifax and 3,729 in those of Portsmouth. The parents of these children had chosen to leave vacant the places in the provided schools and to send their children to the other schools. The local authority might be tempted in such places to inflict on these parents the hardship of depriving them of their choice on the ground that there was abundant room in the provided schools. He wished to guard against that hardship.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out the words 'for the purpose of continuing,' and insert the words 'shall, if required by the owners, continue.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY regarded the proposal contained in the Amendment as an absolutely inadmissible proposal. He was quite satisfied that the figures which had been quoted by the most rev. Primate were based upon average attendance and not upon the roll.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: I think it is quite possible the noble Lord may be right. I do not at all press the details of the figures, but only the general evidence they afford.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said it was important to bear in mind how delusive figures of average attendance were as the basis of calculating vacant places. He asked the Committee to consider what was the meaning of the contention of the most rev. Primate. The Amendment would give a right to the existing managers of any voluntary school to claim transfer unless the building could be shown to be structurally unsuitable. There would not even be an absolute right of refusal if the building was structurally unsuitable, as there would be an appeal to the Board of Education. This proposal was a violation of the principle of the Act of 1902, which limited the obligation of the local authority to maintain a school to the time during which it was in structural repair. By this Amendment the school was to be maintained until the appeal to the Board of Education was determined. Moreover, as the Amendment would impose a heavy burden on the ratepayers, it was constitutionally outside the powers of the House. As was well known, the House had no power to do anything which involved a charge on the rates or taxes. Therefore, if they carried the Amendment it would be said they had done a thing which the law or the Constitution did not entitle them to do. [A NOBLE LORD: "No."] Did anyone deny that the House was incompetent to place a charge on the rates or taxes? The Amendment would undoubtedly put a fresh burden on the ratepayers, for it would compel the local authorities to take over all the voluntary schools, subject only to the condition that the buildings were structurally suitable. He further pointed out that the Board of Education was not to be trusted in an appeal as to unsuitable buildings, they had for years recognised schools in cellars and other unsuitable and insanitary buildings. The recent surveys of voluntary schools by local authorities under the Act of 1902 showed how completely the Board of Education had neglected its duty, and they could not be depended on to censure themselves by condemning the buildings they had so long tolerated. Moreover, local authorities required to deal with schools with a view to efficiency by rejecting redundant schools, by consolidating small schools, by reorganising schools with small or inconvenient departments, and by rejecting schools which if not absolutely incapable of proper occupations had small or no playgrounds, and were on the border line between schools which were absolutely unfit or merely undesirable. Obviously schools which were not needed and were costly to maintain should not be taken over for the convenience of a particular church who would thereby get their Sunday School permanently repaired at the expense of the rates.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY thought the Amendment simply carried out the views in regard to the voluntary schools which had been expressed over and over again by Ministers in the House of Commons. For instance, Mr. Birrell had said it was the desire of the Government that as many as possible of the properly equipped voluntary schools should be transferred to the local authorities; and that it had never entered their heads that the local authorities would refuse to take over such schools. The right hon. Gentleman, however, admitted that there might be what he called pig-headed local authorities; and it was as a safeguard against such local authorities that the Amendment was proposed.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that as an Amendment stood in his name which dealt with the question in a manner rather different from that proposed by the most rev. Primate, perhaps their Lordships would allow him to say a few words. He had listened with very great care and attention to what had fallen from the most rev. Primate, and he quite agreed with him that it would be unfair to the voluntary schools and wrong on general grounds to allow local authorities to exercise an option as to whether they would take over particular schools.

He had no feeling whatever against the local authorities. So far as he was personally concerned such schools as he was interested in had been handed over to the local authority. But that was because he knew, or thought he knew, his local authority, and he felt sure that no injury would be done to the schools which were transferred to them. But, as they had heard that night and as they knew well, there were local authorities and local authorities, and what it was perfectly safe to do when dealing with one local authority it was not safe to do with local authorities such as those in Wales, who made no secret whatever that if this power were given to them they would use it simply for the purpose of putting down voluntary schools. The same sort of language had been used by a very influential Member of His Majesty's Government. He was sure that noble Lords opposite had not the slightest feeling or animus against voluntary schools, but, unfortunately, they had some colleagues who had, and who had expressed very strongly a feeling hostile to voluntary schools. Therefore, in considering this clause it was very necessary to keep those facts in mind.

He quite admitted that it was very necessary—indeed it was essential—to take some precaution against what had been described as pig-headed local authorities, but he did not feel inclined to go quite so far as the most rev. Primate, whose Amendment, as Lord Stanley of Alderley had correctly stated, imposed upon the local authority the duty and necessity of taking over all voluntary schools with the single qualification that the buildings were in a satisfactory state. He did not feel himself, and he doubted whether their Lordships felt themselves, qualified to say what were the circumstances which should be considered in the matter of the transfer of a voluntary school. He did not believe that Parliament had sufficient detailed knowledge to enable it to express a good opinion on a matter of detail of that kind. Therefore, the view he took was that there should be an appeal against the decision of the local authority. Where the local authority refused to take over a school, there should be an appeal to some such body as the Board of Education. If their Lordships would look for a moment at Clause 5, they would see that that was precisely the appeal given in the case of extended facilities.

What he proposed was that the owners might appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board might, if they saw fit, after considering all the circumstances of the case and the wishes of the parents of the children attending the school, by order make arrangements under this Act with respect to the use of the schoolhouse on such terms and conditions as might be contained in the order. "All the circumstances of the case" included a great many other things besides the condition of the building. It ought to be essential that the building should be in good condition when handed over; but, besides that, there were a great many other matters which required to be considered, and which the Board of Education was singularly well qualified to decide. That was the view that presented itself to him, and he was bound to say that, while he was perfectly prepared to put any restrictions which seemed just upon the local authority, he did think it was going very far indeed for Parliament to say that the local authority must, with only one qualification, take over every voluntary school. He agreed with the main proposition of the most rev. Primate, that it was absolutely essential to have an appeal, but he thought it would be desirable to provide only an appeal, and not to lay upon the local education authority a positive injunction that it must take over all the voluntary schools provided the buildings were in sufficiently good order.

*The Earl of JERSEY supported the view taken by his noble friend Lord Camperdown. They must in that House think a little bit about the local education authorities. He happened himself to be the Chairman of one. It was very undesirable that when the Bill passed the local authorities should be compelled to take over any schools which the owners chose to force upon them. The noble Lord (Lord Stanley of Alderley) had stated the main reasons why that would be bad. It would place a very heavy burden on the rates. It would prevent an authority taking care that all the schools were in a fit and proper state, because in the country districts it was undoubtedly the fact that the authority would hesitate if compelled to take over a school which was not exactly needed or was not in a first-class state of repair, to incur much further expense with regard to it. He urged that their Lordships' House, while very anxious to look after the interests of the owners of the schools, ought also to bear in mind that the education authorities had to perform certain duties, including those of raising rates, and they were very reluctant to increase them. The noble Earl who had just sat down had contended that if an owner had a right of appeal to the Board of Education that should satisfy him. He (Lord Jersey) thought it would meet the ends of justice.

Lord BELPER said that, as one having had experience of county management, he looked with some alarm on the rather bald proposal contained in the most rev. Primate's Amendment. It took away absolutely all discretion from the local education authority; it said that in every instance, unless they were structurally unfit, the schools must be taken over. In his view that would very much tie the hands of the local education authorities in carrying out schemes of education and in managing them efficiently and economically. There had been some discussion as to whether the £1,000,000 provided in the Bill would be anything like sufficient to cover the expenses which the local education authorities would have to incur. From some figures which he had had placed in his hands he very much doubted whether it would be a sufficient amount as the Bill stood; but, if Amendments of this character were inserted in their Lordships' House, the expense would be very largely increased, and the £1,000,000 would be materially added to. He noticed that Lord Camperdown's Amendment was of a somewhat different character. He agreed with him that there should be a power to prevent a local education authority acting unjustly. He had no fear himself of those authorities which he knew best doing anything of the sort, but, of course, they had to legislate for those which might use their discretion badly. He would like to see an appeal given in order to meet cases where it could be shown that the local education authority was acting arbitrarily or unjustly. That would be an effective safeguard to the schools which the local education authority might be inclined to deal harshly with. They should, as far as possible, protect voluntary schools from injustice, and he thought that would be best done in the way proposed by Lord Camperdown.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD expressed the opinion that the most rev. Primate's Amendment would work unfortunately in many places, and he was obliged to say that if it came to a division he would be compelled to vote against it. He feared that the Amendment would unduly hamper local authorities all over the country, and would act against the interests of good administration and the progress of education. There were a good many reasons why they should hesitate to put such an Amendment upon the Statute Book. They were told that a school must be taken over unless the premises were practically insanitary, but everyone who was acquainted with the details of education—and he had had the opportunity of working both on school boards in boroughs and in his own county of Hereford—must feel that it would be a very dangerous thing to tie the hands of the local authorities to this extent.

It might be asked, for instance, was a school which was really superfluous to be taken over? Or let them suppose that all the schools in a large country town or a city were denominational. He had had experience of a city in which all the schools were of that type. Would the local authority be obliged to incur the unnecessary burden of taking on all the schools before they could open a school of their own? He would like to hear from some of the supporters of the Amendment whether a local authority would be at liberty to say: "This school is superfluous, and we will not take it over." Then, again, if the local education authority took over a school, was the obligation to continue for ever? If it was to be a perpetual obligation it tied their hands as regards all future reforms.

Then, again, there was another question which had been asked in this debate. Would they agree to make the obligation reciprocal? If the local education authority was to be bound to take over all schools, would they on the other hand be willing to consent to a provision that no one should have a right to refuse to hand a school over? That question was asked in another place, but he did not think it was satisfactorily answered. These were some of the reasons why he ventured to hope that the most rev. Primate, after hearing the arguments, would feel that, whatever advantages there might be on the side of his Amendment, it had been proved by those who had had the most intimate practical acquaintance with the working of our elementary school system, to be an impossible Amendment.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN thought it would be generally admitted that this was a question of very considerable difficulty, and it had been admitted in another place by the representative of His Majesty's Government that the clause as it stood required amendment. When the possible hardship, not merely to the owners or trustees of voluntary schools, but to the parents and to the children who attended them, was pointed out, Mr. Birrell promised to bring forward a clause which should meet the difficulty by empowering the Board of Education to override unreasonable objections on the part of the local authority. They knew what had happened in the case of some local authorities, and it was not unreasonable to expect that such authorities would deliberately set themselves against taking over denominational schools, whatever the cost to the ratepayers whom they nominally represented might be. In such places as Halifax and Portsmouth, which had been referred to by the most rev. Primate as towns where the vacant places in council schools exceeded in number the children attending the denominational schools, the local authority, even if not hostile to denominational schools, would have a plausible excuse for not taking them over.

Then, again, there was the case of local authorities which might desire, for the benefit of education in their districts, to amalgamate small schools, and have one large school instead of perhaps two or three existing ones. They might decline, on one or other of those grounds, to take over denominational schools offered to them by the trustees. The result would be that an intolerable hardship would be inflicted upon the parents and the children interested in those schools. The children would be compelled to attend the council schools, and they would be deprived of the benefits of the denominational teaching which they had always hitherto received. He thought it would be found to be a real hardship in many parts of the country. There was surely a *prima facie* case for the Amendment which had been moved by the most rev. Primate. At the same time he was bound to say that he felt the objections which had been raised on educational and economical grounds by noble Lords opposite and by more than one noble Lord who had spoken from his side of the House; but was it impossible to arrive at some solution which should get over the difficulty and enable the matter to be fairly settled? The clause proposed by the Minister for Education in another place satisfied nobody. At any rate, he had hardly proposed it before he felt himself obliged to vote against it. But, on the other hand, he (Viscount St. Aldwyn) did think that the sole restriction which the most rev. Prelate had suggested was insufficient. If it could be fairly shown that any denominational school within the district of a local authority was really not required, taking into consideration the need for denominational teaching, the local education authority should not be compelled to take it over.

He alluded to this matter with very great diffidence, because he knew he was speaking in the presence of many who were infinitely better acquainted with our educational system than he was; but he ventured to suggest that in the proviso which the most rev. Primate had placed on the Paper an Amendment should be made. He suggested that after the words "public elementary school" these words should be inserted "or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation." That, of course, if it stood by itself, would deprive the children who had hitherto attended denominational schools of the possibility of receiving the denominational teaching which they and their parents desired. To meet their case he would venture to suggest the addition of another proviso on their behalf, to this effect—

> "Provided that, where an existing voluntary school is not continued on account of its not being required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation, the local education authority shall be bound, on the requisition of the owners of the school-house, to afford facilities for the special religious instruction hitherto given in that school in some other school accessible to the children who have attended it."

If it was said that that was an attack on the Act of 1870, he would reply that he thought it was conclusively shown in the debate last night that, whatever the Act of 1902 might have done to the Act of 1870, that Act and this Bill had effectually disturbed that settlement. These small schools had been stoutly defended because they had been founded, maintained, and worked by men who believed most strongly that religious teaching was an essential part of education. If they tried to get rid of these schools by amalgamating them into larger schools without continuing the chance of religious teaching, they would have all that strength against them in the attempt. If, on the other hand, they gave the religious facilities he had ventured to suggest, they would have that strength on their side to the ultimate benefit of the education of the country.

*Lord CLIFFORD of CHUDLEIGH, who mentioned that he had a similiar Amendment on the Paper, made an appeal to the Committee on behalf of the smaller Roman Catholic schools to which the Bill, unless some such Amendment as that now proposed were passed, would mean practical extinction. Allusion had been made to those local education authorities whose conduct had not been conspicuous for either impartiality or justice, and no body of the community had suffered more under their hands than had the body on whose behalf he now appealed. As to the abler, juster, and more impartial bodies, he had no complaint to make on that score, but their natural tendency would be to adopt a policy which must inevitably do away with all the smaller schools. He had only to remind the Committee of what had been said by Lord Stanley of Alderley and the Bishop of Hereford to enable them to picture a strong progressive educational body adopting a policy the first act of which would be to refuse to make any arrangement with the smaller schools which would come under this clause. Roman Catholic parents had made great efforts to provide schools in which their children could get the religious education they desired, and if those schools were swept away it would be an injustice which would be most deeply felt.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, it is perfectly true, as the noble Viscount opposite said, that this is both an important and an exceedingly difficult matter, and those who have read the discussions which took place in the House of Commons will see that its difficulty was fully recognised there. So far as the proposed Amendment of the most rev. Primate goes, it is undoubtedly of an extreme character. It is not absolutely in terms so extreme as those which follow it in the names of Viscount Ridley and Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, because those noble Lords apparently compel the authority to take over schools whether the owners desire it or not.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: My Amendment was not so intended.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I believe that is the technical effect of the noble Viscount's Amendment. There is no doubt that the Amendment of the most rev. Primate is of a very extreme character, and perhaps I may be allowed to say that for us as we sit here in our isolation it is a relief to find that for once the big battalions opposite are not entirely of one mind on this matter. The effect of the most rev. Primate's Amendment is, in brief, that economy is not to be considered in any way in taking over these schools. I am bound to say I do agree with what fell from many noble Lords opposite, that that is a very startling proposition to make to the great local authorities of this country.

I may say, in passing, that these demands to be taken over at any rate dispose of the contention which was made early in this controversy, that taking over was confiscation. I quite agree that the schools would prefer to stay as they are. That we do not dispute; but, at any rate, nobody asks to be confiscated, and I hope we may hear no more of that somewhat disagreeable term. The effect would be, if the most rev. Primate's Amendment were adopted, that a very great number of extremely inferior and unnecessary, though just structurally passable schools, would have to be taken over; and I am bound to say that the fact that in the Act of 1902 the very low limit of thirty was left, as I think most unfortunately by noble Lords opposite, as the figure below which a school could not be declared to be unnecessary, has added very greatly to the difficulty of dealing with this particular question. I am also bound to point out that last night's division to a certain extent removed one argument from the most rev. Primate. An argument which I think he would have liked to have put forward was that it was quite possible to find an area in which the local authority gave no religious instruction and refused to take over any denominational school. The vote of last night makes it impossible for noble Lords to use any argument as to the possible existence of an education area of that kind.

My noble friend Lord Camperdown has a somewhat different proposition on the Paper. If the most rev. Primate's Amendment were accepted my noble friend's new clause would obviously not be in order, but it is clear that his new clause is by no means without support in the Committee. It obtained the support of two noble Lords, the Earl of Jersey and Lord Belper, both of whom are very well known in connection with county government, and on that account it certainly deserves careful consideration. It is, of course, from the point of view of noble Lords on this side a very much less objectionable proposal than that of the most rev. Primate, but, on the other hand, we do think that it would be exceedingly difficult to carry into effect.

As noble Lords are aware, by Section 9 of the Act of 1902 three points have to be taken into consideration by the Board of Education before a school can be declared unnecessary. They are to have regard to the interests of secular education, to the wishes of the parents, and to the economy of the rates; and I am bound to say that from everything I can hear in the Department the duty saddled upon it by that clause has been one which it has been found almost impossible to perform. The difficulty in deciding on those different considerations is immense, and certainly our experience does not lead us to suppose that any less difficulty would be found in dealing with the matter in the manner proposed by my noble friend.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My clause is exactly, or as nearly as possible, the proposition which the Government make in Clause 5.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: Yes; but in Clause 5 there is no assumption that a school will cease to exist because it is numerically unnecessary, and certainly we are not prepared to lay down that proposition with regard to these other schools. That is a difference which I am sure my noble friend will see is of very great importance. I am afraid I am technically out of order in discussing my noble friend's clause, but I think it is advisable to debate the matter as a whole. My noble friend's proposal is exceedingly vague. What he says is that the Board of Education—

> "may, after considering all the circumstances of the case and the wishes of the parents of the children attending the school, by order make an arrangement under this Act with respect to the use of the schoolhouse on such terms and conditions as may be contained in the order."

That is a very indefinite instruction to give to a public department in a matter of this kind. It is just one of those clauses in which Parliament evades the whole difficulty and places it upon the shoulders of the Department, and we do not think it is reasonable to ask the Department to undertake responsibility of this kind without some more definite indication of the wishes of Parliament.

I pass now from my noble friend's clause to the speech of the noble Viscount opposite, Lord St. Aldwyn. I need not say that to a very great part of his speech we, on this side of the House, listened with the keenest pleasure. The noble Viscount, as it seemed to me, took an exceedingly broad view of the question. He spoke from the point of view of one who, though he desires to safeguard the interests of the Church to which he belongs and other Churches, at the same time recognises the paramount claims of our educational system. On that account we welcomed the utterances of the noble Lord. But when I come to his positive proposition the noble Viscount will see that we are placed in a position of considerable difficulty. The way, as I understand it, in which he proposes to meet the difficulty is that when a school is declared to be unnecessary a certain number of the parents of the children in the school may, if they wish it, demand facilities for denominational teaching in some other school, which, of course, in some districts may be a council school. That involves among other things the repeal of the Cowper-Temple clause, and it opens up the whole question of what I may call general facilities which I had supposed we should discuss on various Amendments relating to Clause 3.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: I did not intend to do that, because, of course, the facilities in question would be confined to the children who were deprived of them by the discontinuance of the denominational school. I had not at all in my mind the idea of asking for facilities of the kind in a council school in a district where there was also a denominational school.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: But it might happen that the only school to which the children could go, on the disappearance of the denominational school, would be a council school, and, therefore, in that particular case what I have said would come into operation. I would suggest, therefore, that it would be better to deal with this clause alone, and at the same time that his proposition should come in in some form. Would it not be possible for him to postpone the consideration of the facilities to be provided for other children until we come to Clause 3, and deal with the Amendment of the most rev. Primate on its merits as it stands? It appears to me that if we begin to discuss the question of the possibility of giving facilities in all schools, we shall be entering upon a very vast question, and one which I am afraid would complicate the consideration of the question of taking over the schools in a very marked degree.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, so far as the principle of the Amendment put upon the Paper by the most rev. Primate is concerned, I am disposed to go great lengths in the direction in which he desires to travel. His proposal is, as I understand it, that the local education authority is to be under an obligation to take over these voluntary schools; that that authority may make an arrangement covering the terms of the transfer, but that, if the parties should not agree, then there is to be an appeal to the Commission, which would decide, not whether the school is to be transferred or not, but what the terms of the transfer are to be. The only condition attached by the most rev. Primate is that the transferred school shall be in a proper structural state. To this extent I agree with the most rev. Primate, that it seems to me that in these cases the presumption should be in favour of the transfer of the school, and when I say that, I believe I am only repeating what has been said in effect more than once by Ministers responsible for this measure. If we give an absolutely free hand to the local education authority to refuse to take over these schools, we expose ourselves to a very great injustice being done to the owners of these voluntary schools, who may find themselves face to face with what I suppose I may call a "combination" to refuse, as a matter of policy, all but a very small number of these schools. You may have a local authority with a fondness for bricks and mortar and a desire to embark upon ambitious building operations of its own, and ready to ignore the claims of existing schools which may be less conveniently built or less conveniently situated, and I confess my apprehensions on this ground were not diminished by the remarks that fell from my noble friend Lord Stanley of Alderley, for I gathered that he personally—and he speaks with great authority on this subject—is decidedly in favour of what he called a policy of amalgamation; and that with him, at all events, educational efficiency would prevail over all other considerations no matter what those might be

Another point to be remembered is that if these schools are allowed to be refused by the local education authority, away go all your facilities. It is the acceptance of the schools which is the preliminary of admission to these facilities. Those are arguments that weigh greatly with me. On the other hand, I am certainly not unmoved by what has been said by several noble Lords who addressed the Committee, to the effect that there would be some hardship in saddling the local authority indiscriminately with every school which could not be described as structurally unfit. This is the difficulty with which we are confronted, and I think we should be indebted to my noble friend behind me (Viscount St. Aldwyn) for having made an attempt to discover an exit from it.

My noble friend Lord Camperdown has also a proposal of his own directed to the same object. He, I understand, would rely upon an appeal to the Board of Education, which he would allow, unless I am mistaken, to refuse the school almost upon any grounds. There I confess I think he is going a little too far. I should not like to give the Board of Education an absolutely unrestricted discretion to decline to take over these schools. With regard to the proposal of the noble Viscount on the front bench behind me, it seemed to me to be an ingenious one, and one certainly deserving further examination by the Committee, but it is not before us at present on the Paper. Most of us have only heard of it for the first time within the last few minutes, and I do not think he would himself expect or suggest that we should accept it as matters now stand. His proposal is, I understand, that the local education authority should be allowed to refuse these schools, but only upon certain conditions, one of those conditions being that some suitable arrangement shall be made in other schools for the children who find themselves excluded from the schools which they have been accustomed to attend, and whose parents might greatly resent their being transferred to other schools in which no opportunities were open to them for the kind of special instruction for which they looked. That is a proposal which I for one am ready to examine with an open mind, and it may perhaps be better that we should find some means of deferring for the present a final decision upon it.

LORD HERRIES said it should be clearly understood that Catholics could not be satisfied with religious facilities provided in any public school. He was quite ready to support Amendments for the provision of religious teaching in other schools, but for Catholic children there must be Catholic teachers, and a Catholic atmosphere. If local authorities were allowed to close those schools they thought unnecessary, he feared that in many districts Catholics would fare badly. There were 250 Catholic schools in areas with populations less than 5,000, and in many of those areas it was quite possible the local authorities might consider the schools unnecessary. The facilities proposed would not satisfy Catholics. Apart from religion there were other matters upon which he regarded Catholic teaching necessary, and he would prefer such teaching in reference to the history of the 16th century.

VISCOUNT HALIFAX, in supporting the Amendment, attributed the past extravagance of educational authorities to overbuilding. This waste of ratepayers' money was now being adduced as a reason for allowing the possibility of gross injustice being inflicted on denominational schools. In many towns in the West Riding there were excellent well-equipped and efficient denominational schools to which parents preferred to send their children, and unless some security were given many of these schools would certainly be closed and the children would be compelled to attend provided schools and be deprived of the religious education they valued and which their parents desired they should have. It was not inconsistent with religious liberty to have regard to definite denominational teaching. He had presented a large number of petitions from the West Riding begging that this teaching might not be cast aside, and many resolutions had been passed to the same effect. This was the object of the most reverend Primate's Amendment.

LORD GRIMTHORPE said he also came from the West Riding, and in that county they were extremely proud of their schools. If the West Riding were polled he was convinced that it would be found overwhelmingly in favour of the Bill now before the Committee. If this Amendment were passed in addition to the Amendment carried last night they would practically have undermined the principle of popular control on which the Bill rested. That control could only be exercised through the local authority, and their Lordships were rapidly taking away all authority from the local authority—leaving them no option at all. The Bill would have to be called a local compulsion Bill. On the previous day it was declared that the local authority, which had been trusted for thirty years, was no longer to be trusted to give religious instruction, and now it was proposed to say that they were not to exercise their own discretion as to the taking over of schools. The Leader of the Opposition had described the local authority as a provincial bureaucracy, forgetting that he was one of those responsible for the creation of that bureaucracy. As it had been created it should be trusted, it having been acknowledged over and over again that local authorities were singularly free from political or religious bias in their local administration. As parents themselves they were not likely to disregard the interests of parents; as responsible to the ratepayers they might be trusted not to lay on the rates burdens that could be avoided. The question of the cost of education in this country was serious, and many noble Lords had said they considered it already too high, meaning apparently that the cost of secular education was too high. They did not object to the cost of denominational education. Practically, what they wanted was that all the denominational schools should be taken over. If they were bad schools, were they to be taken over unless structurally deficient simply because religious instruction was given there? If redundant were they to be taken over when neither efficiency nor economy demanded it? In the single schools area, was the school to remain a denominational school? The appeal provided for in respect of extended facilities left the voluntary schools in a less helpless position than would be supposed from the speeches in support of the Amendment, and the anxiety to have the schools taken over was conclusive proof that the facilities offered were not so unsatisfactory after all.

*The LORD ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY said that in raising this question he had fully expected to hear suggestions for modification of the words of his Amendment, and after the discussion and the proposition of so high an authority as Lord St. Aldwyn, he agreed that it might be well to postpone the decision of the matter till the Report stage, when the House would know what had been decided upon Clauses 3, 4, and 5, and the detailed proposition would be on the Paper. The interesting discussion had suggested several things to him which had not been before his mind in all their fulness when he placed his Amendment on the Paper. He strongly deprecated any suggestion that he was indifferent to economical considerations, but he was by no means prepared to admit that what was suggested would increase expense and that the economy was all on one side. He would not have put down his Amendment if he had believed—and he certainly did not believe—that it would interfere with educational efficiency. If the discussion stood over till the Report, as far as his Amendment was concerned, he would listen with more than respect to the suggestions from various quarters as to the way in which it might be amended in form. From Lord Crewe's reference to the debate of last night, he hoped it might be concluded that in moving their other Amendments they might consider that the vote then recorded was going to have its permanent result.

The Marquess of RIPON: My Lords, it seems to me that the suggestion made by the most rev. Primate—namely, that this matter should be postponed to the Report stage, is quite a reasonable one. I wish distinctly to say that at this stage, or at any other stage, the Government cannot accept the Amendment proposed by the most rev. Primate, and we shall be obliged now or hereafter to offer such opposition to it as we can; but I do think that it is very desirable, before this question is further discussed and finally decided, we should have upon the Paper the proposal of the noble Viscount opposite. We cannot, of course, discuss that proposal without having the words before us and having time to consider them. Especially after the able and moderate speech of the noble Viscount it seems very desirable that the Committee should have before it the proposal he foreshadows. I give no pledge as to whether or not we could accept that Amendment, but we should give ourselves an opportunity of discussing the two proposals at the same time. Therefore, if the Committee will agree to it, I will venture to suggest that for the time the most rev. Primate's Amendment should be withdrawn, on the understanding that the whole subject should be again discussed on Report.

Viscount ST. ALDWYN said he was grateful to the Committee for the manner in which his suggestion had been received and he apologised for not having placed it on the Paper.

Lord ASHBOURNE: As I understood, the suggestion is to adjourn the clause as it stands.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES (The Earl of Onslow): I understood it was proposed to adjourn the consideration of Clause 2 down to the words "in a similar manner."

The Marquess of RIPON: What I suggested was that the most rev. Primate's Amendment should be withdrawn for the present without any prejudice to its being raised on Report and fully discussed then. I made that suggestion in order that we might have before us the proposal of the noble Viscount.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES: I should like to ask whether other Amendments of a similar character affecting the clause are also withdrawn.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY said that, so far as the Amendment which he had placed on the Paper was concerned, he would be only only too ready to meet the convenience of their Lordships, but there seemed to be one considerable difficulty in the course which had been proposed. It was this, that if the Amendment moved by the most rev. Primate and the other Amendments of a similar character on the Paper were withdrawn, those who strongly disapproved of Clause 2 as it stood would be in the position of having to vote for it when it was put. That was a position of very great difficulty, even though it might be understood that the Amendment would be taken at a future stage. They had no guarantee from His Majesty's Government that any such Amendment would be accepted. The noble Marquess the Leader of the House had suggested that it would be well to see on the Paper the Amendments put forward by Viscount St. Aldwyn, but he thought it would also be reasonable, considering that it had been admitted on all sides that the machinery of the clause did require amendment, that His Majesty's Government should indicate in what way they proposed to amend the clause. This was another instance of the great difficulty in which they were placed when the Government did not indicate in what way they proposed to draft their own Bill.

LORD HENEAGE suggested that the consideration of the whole clause should be postponed until the Report stage. It would be impossible to discuss the clause, or, at any rate, to do so would be a waste of the time of the Committee until the intentions of the Government in regard to the most rev. Prelate's Amendment were known.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN pointed out that on the Report stage it would be only competent for noble Lords to speak once on an Amendment, and that would be very inconvenient. He thought the difficulty would be met by the postponement of the clause until Monday, by which time the Government could put their Amendment on the Paper.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I hope that your Lordships will not lose sight of the suggestion originally made by my noble friend, that this particular point in Clause 2 should stand over until the Report stage. I confess I think it would be most unfortunate if Clause 2 stood over altogether. It is an extremely intricate and important clause. This is only one point of many on which Amendments are to be moved, and if we are to postpone the whole clause until Report and discuss it under the limitations mentioned by my noble friend opposite I quite agree that we may find ourselves in a position of some difficulty. The noble Viscount (Viscount Ridley) seemed to think it would be a painful thing for him to agree to this clause being inserted in the Bill if this matter stood over. I should be anxious to spare the feelings of the noble Viscount in every way, but I should have thought it was quite possible for him to withdraw from the House when that painful operation took place. Surely it is purely a matter of sentiment. It is quite understood that the whole of this question is going to be discussed again. If, therefore, the postponement could only have relation to the first nine lines of the clause I think it would meet the case. It seems unreasonable, for instance, to ask the Bishop of Wakefield, who has an Amendment on an entirely different subject in this clause, to postpone it for an indefinite period.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD said he was very anxious at this stage to raise the question dealt with in his Amendment, and it would be very inconvenient to him if it were postponed.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN failed to see how it would be possible to discuss the facilities proposed to be given to voluntary schools under Clauses 3 and 4 without knowing what were to be the conditions attached to the taking over of those schools by the local authority. Therefore, he thought their Lordships would be greatly hampered in the discussion on Clauses 3 and 4 if the suggestion that had been thrown out were adopted.

*LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH said he found himself in a difficult position, for the reasons stated by Lord Goschen. He did not see how they were to frame future Amendments unless they knew whether this clause was to be compulsory or not.

The Marquess of RIPON: The proposition which I ventured to make was for the withdrawal of the Amendment proposed by the most rev. Primate at the present time with a view to it being brought forward at a subsequent period. But as there appears to be considerable objection to that proposal, and as there is no doubt the objection taken by my noble friend Viscount Goschen is an important objection, I think that, although we are dealing with the most rev. Primate's Amendment at a great disadvantage without having the proposals of the noble Viscount opposite before us on the Paper, there is no alternative but to take a division on the present Amendment.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: It is, I think, quite clear that the postponement of the whole clause, or even the first part of it, would have very inconvenient results, as it is a clause upon which most of the subsequent clauses in the Bill turn. The omission of the first part would be as objectionable as the omission of the whole clause, because it is in the first part of the clause that the most pregnant passages occur. My suggestion is that we should graft on to the Amendment of the most rev. Primate the first limb of the Amendment proposed by the noble Viscount behind me. The words are not on the Paper, but they are of an extremely simple kind, and will be intelligible to all of your Lordships. In that case the most rev. Primate's proviso would run thus—

"Provided that if the local education authority consider that the schoolhouse of any existing voluntary school is on account of its structural condition not suited for continued recognition as a public elementary school, or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation."

That would leave open the question of the subsidiary arrangements which were proposed by the noble Viscount in the remaining part of his Amendment.

The LORD ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY said he was perfectly ready to agree to the insertion of these words in his Amendment, subject to the condition that they might require revision on the Report stage.

The Duke of NORFOLK: We at this end of the House have not heard the suggestion of the noble Marquess.

*The Earl of CREWE: I think I may venture to say, without contradiction, that the position in which we on this side are placed by the proposed Amendment is a difficult one; and I think noble Lords opposite will candidly agree that it would be impossible for us, even if we were more favourably disposed towards the words of the noble Viscount than we are, to accept this Amendment offhand. I am afraid, therefore, that if the Committee divide upon the Amendment we shall be compelled to oppose it.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN said that noble Lords on the Opposition side of the House were in quite as difficult a position as the noble Earl who had just sat down. So far as he had been able to hear the proposed Amendment to the most rev. Primate's Amendment, he thought it would make things no better. In the circumstances he considered it would be better for the Committee to adjourn for two days, so that the exact proposal before the Committee could be placed on the Paper.

*Lord HARRIS said that no one near him had heard the words suggested by Viscount St. Aldwyn. Why should not the matter be postponed until to-morrow, and the proposed Amendment be in the meantime printed and circulated? He begged to move the adjournment of the House.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH hoped the noble Lord would not persist in that Motion. At the same time, he thought it would be unfortunate if the Committee were to divide forthwith on the Amendment, with which the most rev. Prelate himself confessed he was not now so enamoured as he had been before its discussion. What harm would occur if the suggestion of the most rev. Prelate to withdraw his Amendment were agreed to, and if the other Amendments which hung upon it were also withdrawn, on the distinct understanding that the whole question was open for discussion at a subsequent stage ?

*THE EARL OF CREWE : My noble friend opposite must have forgotten that that was the proposal which we made and withdrew on, as we thought, the exceedingly forcible representation of the noble Viscount opposite (Lord Goschen) that to take that course would seriously hamper him and the Committee in the discussion of the next clause. I am bound to say I was greatly impressed by what the noble Viscount said, and in the circumstances I see nothing for it but to take the decision of the Committee.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK : May I ask what the question put to us will be ?

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES : The question is to leave out the words, " for the purpose of continuing." [Cries of " No."]

*LORD HARRIS : May I ask the noble Earl, then, if my Motion is out of order ?

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES : Oh, I beg pardon.

*LORD HARRIS : I moved that the House do now adjourn, but I am not sure that that is the best form, which would be to report progress.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES : " That the House resume."

LORD ASHBOURNE : I believe that in the House of Commons if a Motion that the House adjourn is carried in the middle of a Bill that disposes of the Bill.

Moved, " That the House be now resumed."—(*Lord Harris.*)

On Question,

Their Lordships divided :—Contents, 215 ; Not Contents, 58.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
York, L. Abp.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Bedford, D.
Devonshire, D.
Leeds, D.
Newcastle, D.
Portland, D.
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Rutland, D.
Somerset, D.
Wellington, D.

Abergavenny, M.
Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Bute, M.
Camden, M.
Cholmondeley, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Linlithgow, M.
Salisbury, M.
Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Abingdon, E.
Albemarle, E.
Amherst, E.
Bandon, E.
Bathurst, E.
Brownlow, E.
Cadogan, E.
Cairns, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cathcart, E.

Cawdor, E.
Clarendon, E.
Darnley, E.
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Drogheda, E.
Eldon, E.
Feversham, E.
Gainsborough, E.
Graham, E. (*D. Montrose.*)
Guildford, E.
Halsbury, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Harewood, E.
Huntingdon, E.
Ilchester, E.
Jersey, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Lichfield, E.
Lindsey, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
Plymouth, E.
Powis, E.
Radnor, E.

Romney, E.
Rosse, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Scarborough, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Westmoreland, E.
Wicklow, E.
Winchelsea and Nottingham, E.
Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Iveagh, V.
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Portman, V.
Ridley, V.
St. Aldwyn, V.

Bangor, L. Bp.
Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Birmingham, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Exeter, L. Bp.

*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*

Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. Bp.
Peterborough, L. Bp.
St. Albans, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Abinger, L.
Addington, L.
Alington, L.
Ampthill, L.
Armstrong, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Ashcombe, L.
Atkinson, L.
Avebury, L.
Barnard, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Biddulph, L.
Blythswood, L.
Bolton, L.
Braye, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Cheylesmore, L.
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
de Ros, L.
Deramore, L.
Desborough, L.
Digby, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunleath, L.
Ebury, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Estcourt, L.
Faber, L.
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Hare, L. (*E. Listowel.*)
Harlech, L.
Harris, L.
Heneage, L.
Herries, L.
Hothfield, L.
Hylton, L.
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kesteven, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Knaresborough, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leigh, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Masham, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Methuen, L.
Middleton, L.
Minster, L. (*M. Conyngham.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Monk Bretton, L.
Mostyn, L.
Newton, L.
North, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ormonde, L. (*M. Ormonde.*)
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Rathmore, L.
Ravensworth, L.
Redesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Rothschild, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sanderson, L.
Sandys, L.
Scarsdale, L.
Seaton, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Tennyson, L.
Teynham, L.
Trevor, L.
Waleran, L.
Wenlock, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

## NOT-CONTENTS.

Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)
Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Craven, E.
De La Warr, E.
Durham, E.
Lytton, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Temple, E.

Athorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Selby, V.

Hereford, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.

Aberdare, L.
Boston, L.
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Castletown, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Eversley, L.
Farrer, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
Grimthorpe, L.
Hamilton of Dalzell, L.
Haversham, L.
Headley, L.
Hemphill, L.
Joicey, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Loch, L.
Northbourne, L.
Nunburnholme, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Overtoun, L.
Pirrie, L.
Reay, L.
Rendel. L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton.*)
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Weardale, L.
Winterstoke, L.

House resumed accordingly, and to be again in Committee to-morrow.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, as there is no business before the House, it now becomes my duty to move the adjournment, but, in doing so, I cannot help making a few comments upon the course which your Lordships have been pleased to take in this matter. Personally, I am very glad that your Lordships are going to adjourn, because a little rest for an old man is a great advantage.

I can perfectly understand how it came about that noble Lords on the front Opposition bench so unexpectedly accepted the Motion for the adjournment, because I think it will be very convenient to them to have a little further time to consider the course they are going to take. The Amendment of the most rev. Prelate has been most seriously assaulted, not from this side of the House but from the other side, in regard to questions of economy and local government. That is no doubt a very unfortunate thing for the supporters of the most rev. Primate. In these circumstances I can quite understand that they may like a little more time to consider the matter. At the same time, I readily admit that the Amendment suggested by the noble Viscount opposite (Lord St. Aldwyn) did place us in a new position, though I venture to think that the course which was suggested from this side would have enabled the House to get without difficulty out of that position if it had not been for the fact that there was held to be a difficulty in proceeding with the other parts of the Bill until that Amendment had been disposed of.

I can only venture to say that I hope this is not going to be taken as a precedent. It was very curious to see the noble Lords on the front Opposition Bench hand up to my noble friend Lord Onslow, who was then in the Chair, the Amendment which they proposed; and as that Amendment was half put from the Chair I think it a little questionable whether it was in order for anybody after that to submit another Motion. My noble friend the Leader of the Opposition gave us no reason to suppose that he was going to support the Motion for adjournment. He never said why he thought the House ought to adjourn, but he proceeded to vote for it. I do not know, in a longish Parliamentary experience, an exact parallel to this proceeding, and I hope I may respectfully ask that it shall not be repeated. I also venture to say that, if it should become the practice of the House that, whenever noble Lords are in any little difficulty, they move the adjournment, I can by no means be responsible for the length of the present session.

*The Marquess of Ripon.*

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I am really at a loss to understand the grounds of the noble Marquess's indignation. In the circumstances the acceptance of the proposal of my noble friend seems to me natural and obvious. We had a very difficult matter before the Committee, and upon both sides of the House it was felt that the question required further consideration. It is quite true I made a suggestion which would have involved putting before your Lordships part of the Amendment of the noble Viscount Lord St. Aldwyn, but that proposal did not find favour, and, I am bound to say, for what seemed to me to be sufficient reasons. The words had not been upon the Paper, and were consequently not in the possession of the Committee, and in these circumstances it was suggested that, instead of sitting here from nine till eleven this evening we should meet at the usual hour to-morrow, and in the meantime consider the arguments that had been used and endeavour to find an exit from the position of difficulty that had arisen. The circumstances were unusual, and I cannot see that what has been done is inconsistent with the dignity and self-respect of the House, or why the noble Marquess should think that he and his friends have been in any way ill-used.

House adjourned at Eight o'clock till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 30th October*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against. From Kingston-upon-Hull; and, Worcester Park; to lie upon the Table.

### JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petition from East Bristol, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

### POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Blyth, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

### SMALL LANDOWNERS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Renfrewshire, against; to lie upon the Table.

---

## RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

### AUDIT OF COUNTY ACCOUNTS (IRELAND) (FEES).

Return [presented 29th October] to be printed. [No. 340.]

### CRIMINAL LUNATICS ASYLUMS ACT, 1860.

Copy presented, of Rules made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 5 of the The Criminal Lunatic Asylums Act, 1860, for Parkhurst Criminal Lunatic Asylum [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT.

Copies presented, of four Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, entitled (1) The East Africa Order in Council, 1906; (2) The Ashanti Order in Council, 1906; (3) The Northern Territories Order in Council, 1906; (4) The Gold Coast Boundaries Order in Council [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copies presented, of two Orders in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, viz., (1) amending the Orders in Council of 9th May, 1891, and 23rd November, 1893, in regard to the grant of Colonial Certificates of Competency; (2) relating to Seamen's Lodging Houses in the City and County of Kingston-upon-Hull [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### NAVAL SAVINGS BANK ACT, 1866.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, approving new Regulations for the administration of Naval Savings Banks [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### FUGITIVE OFFENDERS ACT, 1881.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 22nd October, 1906, directing an Act passed by the Legislature of Natal (No. 13 of 1906) shall be recognised and given effect to throughout His Majesty's Dominions and on the high seas as if it were part of The Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

### TREATY SERIES (No. 15, 1906).

Copy presented, of Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America respecting the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and Alaska. Signed at Washington, 21st April, 1906. Ratification exchanged at Washington, 16th August, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

---

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

### The Mitchelstown Disturbances.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the organisers of a Nationalist demonstration at Mitchelstown, on 9th September, applied to the authorities at Dublin Castle for the return of a flag taken by the police from the rioters at Mitchelstown in September, 1887; whether a reply was sent to the effect that the flag was being returned, but the authorities regretted that it could not be delivered back in time to be used in the demonstration; and, if so, who was the official responsible for returning the flag and sending the message accompanying it.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The suggestions of fact made in the Question are not correct. What happened was this. I was asked by an hon. Member of this House whether a flag taken from a procession at Mitchelstown in 1888 could be returned to those who proposed to have a procession commemorating persons who lost their lives on that occasion. I replied that I did not know whether any such flag was in existence or not, but that if it was, and the persons who claimed it could show that they were the persons entitled to have it back, I was willing it should be restored to them. I was afterwards informed that a flag had been found, but do not know whether it was the flag in question nor what happened afterwards. The procession was held so soon after the date of the request and of my letter that I do not think the flag can have been given back before the procession took place, and I recollect that in a newspaper notice I saw of the procession some little time later there was no mention of the flag.

### Corry No. 2 National Schools—Relation of Teachers and Managers.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland are aware that the Rev. James Dewar, the manager of Corry No. 2 National Schools, Donegal Pass, Belfast, and Mrs. Wright, the principal teacher of the school, are brother and sister, respectively, of Mr. E. P. Dewar, the senior inspector of the circuit in which the school is situated; and whether this arrangement is in accordance with the rules of the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they were not aware that the facts are as stated in the Question, but they have now ascertained that such is the case. It is contrary to the Commissioners' rules for the teacher of a national school to be a near relative of the manager.

### Railway from Sligo to Arigna—Government Grant.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the leader of the late Government, when Chief Secretary for Ireland, promised a Government grant in aid of the construction of a railway from Arigna to Sligo; whether this promise was repeated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover and the right hon. Member for South Dublin during their respective terms of office as Chief Secretary; and whether the right hon. Gentleman, the present holder of the office, can now see his way to redeem this promise, in view of the fact that, owing to the failure of the potato crop in the district, employment for the people is badly wanted.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am aware that my predecessors have from time to time had under consideration different projects for connecting Arigna with existing lines of railway, but I find no record that any promise of a Government grant has been made. I myself recently received a deputation in favour of a railway from Arigna to the Sligo, Leitrim, and Northern Counties Railway at Dromahaire, and also a deputation asking, amongst other things, for a railway from Arigna to Collooney, which is in railway connection with Sligo. I can only repeat now what I said then, namely, that in the event of further funds for railway extension becoming available, the claims of Arigna will receive consideration in conjunction with claims from other districts. I am obtaining the views of the Board of Works upon the two rival schemes for providing railway communication with Arigna.

### Primary Education in Ireland.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the several public meetings recently held in Ireland in connection with primary education representing all shades of opinion in the country, and making various representations as to the reforms necessary to improve educational conditions in the country; and what steps he proposes to take to meet the wishes of the people of Ireland in connection with this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Government have received a number of resolutions passed at public and other meetings on the subject of education in Ireland. The various expressions of opinion contained in these resolutions will receive full consideration. I have already expressed to the House my view that the condition of primary education in Ireland is far from satisfactory. Much needs to be done, but the subject is so large and the difficulties so numerous that I cannot at present make any statement as to the measures proper to be taken.

### EvictedTenants at Ballycomane, County Cork.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners will purchase the tenant's interests in the farm of Ballycomane county Cork, to provide for the evicted tenants in the locality.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that if they should be furnished with full particulars of the farm referred to they will make inquiries into the matter with the object of considering whether they can purchase the farm.

### Irish Poor Law Reform—Report of the Vice-Regal Commission.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has yet received the Report of the Vice-Regal Commission appointed to inquire into the subject of Poor Law Reform in Ireland; and whether he can state when the recommendations of the Commission will be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Report has been received and presented to Parliament, and I am informed that it will be distributed in the course of a day or so.

### Bala Assessor of Income-Tax.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that Mr. Humphry Evans, printer, High Street, Bala, is an assessor for purposes of income-tax, and that that gentleman delegates his duties as assessor to J. T. Jones, 6, Ffryndon Road, Bala, who issues the requisite forms stamped with his own address; is he aware that this practice is general; and will he state how the necessary secrecy is maintained in such cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) Mr. H. Evans is an assessor of income-tax for Bala. Mr. J. T. Jones is clerk to the Commissioners of Income-Tax for the district, and assists Mr. Evans with the clerical work of assessing. He is sworn to secrecy. So far as I am aware, the arrangement is unusual, but is not open to any apparent objection.

### Assessment of Taxes—Delegation of Duties.

MR. SEARS: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether district commissioners of taxes are in the habit of delegating any of their duties connected with assessment, valuation of property, the examination of statements of accounts of profit made in trade, and the certification of exemptions and of abatements in connection with income-tax; if not, will he state by what legal authority the surveyors of taxes interfere in such work for the performance of which district commissioners and additional commissioners were created and for which their clerks and the parochial assessors are paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The Board of Inland Revenue know of no such habit on the part of district commissioners of taxes. Surveyors of taxes, so far as I am aware, confine themselves to the performance of their statutory duties. The statutory authority under which they act will be found (a) as regards examination and correction of assessments in Sections 75, 115, 116, 120, 126, and 161 of the Act of 1842, and Sections 51, 52, and 63 of The Taxes Management Act, 1880; (b) as regards exemptions and abatements in Section 164 of the Act of 1842.

### The Militia and Foreign Service.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London): To ask the Secretary of State for War when he proposes to introduce the Bill to make the Militia liable for service aboard on embodiment on account of imminent national danger or great emergency.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I hope to be able to introduce this Bill early next session.

### Trial of Turks for Murder at Busra.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what was the result of the trial of the sixteen Ottoman subjects who were arrested for implication in the murder of the European agent of Messrs. Lynch, at Busra, in the early part of the present year.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) Two were condemned to fifteen years imprisonment with hard labour, and two to fifteen years imprisonment. Two were placed under two years police supervision, and six were condemned by default to death. Five were condemned by default to fifteen years imprisonment.

### Reparation for Attack on Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie near Amoy.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the assailants of Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie, near Amoy, on 18th June, have been brought to justice, or whether any reparation has been made by the Chinese Government for the conduct of Chinese subjects on that occasion.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Consul at Amoy has reported that the Chinese authorities, who showed entire goodwill in the matter, have taken steps to apprehend the assailants of Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie. But no news of their capture has as yet reached His Majesty's Government. Inquiry is being made on this point. The Taotai of Amoy has offered to pay Dr. Horne's and Mr. Eadie's medical expenses, and His Majesty's Minister at Peking has been authorised to suggest to the Chinese Government that some compensation should be paid in addition as an act of grace.

### Shanghai-Nanking Railway—Issue of Bonds.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government of China has authorised the second issue of bonds or provided funds for the construction of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway according to the agreement concluded in 1903; and whether the concession for the Su-chau, Hang-chau, Ning-po Railway once granted, and subsequently cancelled, has or has not been finally confirmed so as to provide a junction with the railway the Government of Hong Kong is constructing to the Kau-lung frontier.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) The Chinese Government have not yet authorised the issue of bonds, nor have they themselves provided funds for the completion of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. We have, however, received repeated assurances from them that funds will be provided in one or other of these ways in time to prevent suspension of work on the railway, and His Majesty's Government are following the matter with attention. The negotiations for the final agreement for the Suchau-Hangchau-Ningpo Railway have been deferred until the conclusion of the negotiations in regard to the final agreement for the Canton-Kowloon Railway, which are now proceeding.

### Anglo-Japanese Agreement—Great Britain and the United States.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary of State for Foriegn Affairs whether there is any provision in the Anglo-Japanese treaty safeguarding His Majesty's dominions from being involved in a war with the United States of America on behalf of Japan.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) I must refer my hon. friend to the text of the agreement, which is published. It is of a general character, and there is no indication that is likely to lead to war with any Power.

### Straits Settlements Currency.

SIR DAVID BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a new Currency Ordinance has passed the Legislature of the Straits Settlements providing, among other things, that the silver dollar shall henceforth weigh 416 grains with ·800 fineness; whether the silver dollar at present current weighs 416 grains with ·900 fineness; whether, according to the law of the Straits Settlements the silver dollar is legal tender for an unlimited amount; if so, can he state the reasons for the lowering of the degree of fineness of the new coin; whether the Governor of the Straits Settlements has given his consent to the new Ordinance; and whether he will lay a copy of the Ordinance upon the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Currency Ordinance, which, it is understood, has just been passed by the Legislature of the Straits Settlements, provides that the Commissioners of Currency may redeem notes in gold or silver at their option. The Commissioners were empowered early in this year to issue notes against gold at the fixed rate of 2s. 4d. to the dollar; the Ordinance referred to will allow them to pay in gold also. The reduction in the fineness of the Straits Settlements dollar from ·900 to ·800 is provided for by an Order passed by His Majesty in Council on the 22nd instant. The provision will operate from a date to be fixed by the Governor. The standard weight of the dollar will remain at 416 grains. The silver dollar is, and will continue to be, unlimited legal tender, and the gold sovereign will also be unlimited legal tender at the fixed rate. The provision for lowering the fineness of the dollar was necessitated by the rise in the value of silver, which has carried the bullion value of the dollar to the level of the fixed gold value, and may carry it beyond. The Secretary of State was strongly advised by the Governor to retain the dollar at the fixed value of 2s. 4d., and, after careful consideration, he has, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, taken the above measures with that object. The Governor has not yet reported whether he has assented to the Ordinance empowering the Currency Commissioners to pay notes in gold. A copy of the Ordinance will be forwarded in the ordinary course to the Library of the House as soon as copies are received in this country.

### Board of Trade Auditors and London Electric Lighting Companies.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what procedure he adopts with reference to the appointment of an auditor to an electric lighting company in London; if the Department have made any regulations with reference to such audit, and, if so, what; whether applications have been received from any local authorites in London, supported by the London County Council, asking to be allowed to attend before the auditor appointed in respect of any company; if so, whether such application has been refused by the Board of Trade, and, if so, for what reason; whether such auditor is paid directly by the company whose accounts he audits; whether such auditor has the power to disallow or to take exception in any effective manner to any charges in the accounts or to any other entries (*e.g.*, an allocation as between capital and revenue); if he can state whether any effective action of this character has been taken by any auditor acting for a London company; whether any public notice of the audit is given or similar steps taken to those followed by the auditor of an electricity undertaking owned by a London local authority; and whether he is prepared to make regulations for such audit in order that duly appointed representatives of any local authorities may be able to attend the audit of companies' electricity accounts in their area, and be placed in a similar position to ratepayers at a municipal audit.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The appointment by the Board of Trade of auditors of the accounts of electric lighting companies in London is made in pursuance of provisions inserted in the various companies' orders and is made annually. The Department have not yet made any regulations with reference to the audit. An application has been made by the Camberwell local authority to be allowed to attend before the auditor, and is now under consideration by the Department. No other application has been made by a metropolitan local authority. The auditor's fee is paid by the company to the Board of Trade, and by them to the auditor. Under the general form of audit clause the auditor has no power to disallow charges, but, in the event of his requirements not being complied with by the company, he reports the matter to the Board of Trade, and any Report made by the auditor, or such portion thereof as the Board of Trade direct, is required to be appended to the company's annual statement of accounts, and forms part thereof for the purposes of statutory publication. Generally the requirements of the auditor are met by the company, but, in any case where they are not met, it is the practice of the Department to communicate to the London County Council and the local authority, the bodies concerned in the questions of revision of prices and purchase of the undertaking, a copy of the accounts, and of the auditor's Report, and of any correspondence relating thereto. The accounts not being those of a local authority, public notice of the audit is not given. I am considering the question of making arrangements for representatives of the Camberwell local authority to have facilities to discuss with the auditors of the accounts of companies having powers in Camberwell any questions which may arise on those accounts, and, if satisfactory arrangements cannot be made, I am prepared to consider the question of making regulations in the matter.

### British Consuls and Commercial Intelligence.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information his department receives through the Foreign Office from His Majesty's Consuls about the conditions of international business; and whether he can make the facts thus obtained more generally accessible to the mercantile community.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade receive a large amount of information from His Majesty's Consuls on commercial subjects partly through the Foreign Office and partly direct. One of the principal functions of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, which largely consists of representatives of the mercantile community, is to devise means of making the information thus obtained more generally accessible to those whom it concerns. If my hon. friend can make any suggestions for this purpose I will take care that they are brought to the notice of the Committee.

### H.M.S. "Dreadnought" and Portsmouth Dry Dock.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty for how many days the largest dock at Portsmouth has been rendered unavailable for other purposes through being occupied by H.M.S. "Dreadnought."

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The "Dreadnought" was in the dock named 124 days, but no inconvenience was caused.

### Rates of Keeper's Lodge at Holiday Hill, Lyndhurst.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether His Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests have refused to pay the parochial rates on the keeper's lodge at Holiday Hill, Lyndhurst, in the New Forest, whereby the local authorities are losing the value of the rate, and the occupier of the lodge, Keeper Sims, has been deprived of his Parliamentary vote after its enjoyment of twenty-seven years; and whether steps will be taken forthwith to put this matter right.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The cottage in question is occupied by a Crown woodman. There appears to be a doubt as to the parish within which it is situated. The Commissioners of Woods are satisfied that it is in the parish of Minstead, but the parochial authorities have not asked for payment of rates. Whenever they do so the Commissioners will be ready to make the usual donation in lieu of rates. The Commissioners have no information to show whether or not the woodman is on the register of voters.

### Pensions of Senior Assistant Clerks (Abstractor Class).

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in reckoning service for pension in the case of senior assistant clerks (abstractor class), members of that grade who on appointment to the permanent establishment had previously served for twenty years in the capacity of writers or copyists, are subjected to a deduction of ten years, while members of the same grade who had served in a like capacity for only ten years are, on receiving a similar appointment, subjected to a deduction of only five years; and, if so, will he cause the regulations governing these men's superannuation to be amended so as to adjust this unequal treatment of members of the same class in His Majesty's Civil Service.

(*Answered by Mr. M'Kenna.*) It is a fact that copyists or writers, who of recent years have been placed on the permanent establishment, are allowed to count one-half of their previous service for pension, although the regulations governing that service expressly stated that it would not confer any claim to superannuation. The reasons for this concession were explained in the Answer, which I circulated with the Votes, to a Question by the hon. Member for Woolwich on the 26th March last.† I do not see any justification for extending it.

### Accommodation in Barlinnie Prison.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary for Scotland what is the total number of cells in Barlinnie Prison; how many of these are association cells: and what is the total number of prisoners who can be accommodated in the cells of the prison on the same day.

---

† See (4) *Debates* clxiv., 839.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The numbers required by the hon. Member are as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of cells in Barlinnie Prison - - - - - - | 1,034 |
| Of these, association cells - | 12 |
| Total number of prisoners who can be accommodated - - | 1,058 |

In addition there are six hospital cells and one large hospital ward, which together provide accommodation for twenty-one prisoners.

### Small Holdings in Highland Crofting Counties.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the number of agricultural holdings in each of the Highland crofting counties not exceeding £30 annual rental and not exceeding £50 annual rental, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) My hon. friend will find approximate information which he desires by reference to—1. Poor Rates (Scotland), Persons Assessed. Return to House of Commons, dated 6th July 1891. 2. Table VI. of the Annual Returns of Acreage in the Agricultural Statistics, 1905. Holdings not exceeding £30. Argyll 1,457, Caithness 1,894, Inverness 3,081, Orkney 2,978, Ross and Cromarty 4,769 Shetland, 3,793, Sutherland 2,417. Above £30, but not exceeding £50. Argyll 272, Caithness 142, Inverness 197, Orkney 174, Ross and Cromarty 240, Shetland 38, Sutherland 37.

### Estimated Cost of Projected Education Commission.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the fact that the expenses of the projected Education Commission are to come out of the £1,000,000 granted by the Government, he will say what his estimate of the annual cost of such Commission will be.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The hon. Gentleman is mistaken in thinking that the expenses of the Commissioners to be appointed under Section 10 of the Education Bill will be met out of the £1,000,000 provided under Clause 13. If the hon. Member will peruse the latter clause he will see that its terms do not admit of the grant being devoted to this purpose, and moreover it was made clear by myself in this House on 20th July that the cost of the Commission should come out of public funds. I am unable at present to form any estimate of the annual cost of such Commission.

### Workmen's Compensation Act — Reduction of Qualifying Period—Increased Cost of Insurance.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he can furnish information showing what will be the estimated additional cost of insurance in the coal, ironstone, mining, engineering, shipbuilding, and textile industries, respectively, resulting from the reduction of the qualifying period in Clause 1 of the Workmen's Compensation Bill from fourteen days to seven days, with a provision that where the disablement prevents the workman from earning full wages for a period of fourteen days the employer shall be liable to pay compensation for the whole period of such disablement, starting from the commencement.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The estimates which have been put before me are as follows, but, as I explained to the hon. Member last Thursday,[†] several considerations make it difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at trustworthy conclusions :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Coal mining - | 21–44 per cent. (not including increase in administrative expenses). |
| Ironstone mining - | 25 per cent. |
| Engineering - | 47 per cent. |
| Shipbuilding - | 40 per cent. |
| Textile industries - | 39¾ per cent.* |

* Since my answer of last Thursday the estimate for textile industries has been corrected by the inclusion of fatal accidents. The estimates then given for this industry now appear as follows :—

| | Reduction of 14 days to 3. | Reduction of 14 days to 7. |
|---|---|---|
| Textile industries - | 33 per cent. | 28½ per cent. |

---

[†] See Col. 394, *et seq.*

### Reduction of Exports of Gold.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hants, Andover): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the continual drain of gold from this country and the present price of Government securities, he will now formulate a scheme by which the excessive export of gold can be prevented.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) I am unable to add anything to the Answer which I gave to a Question on this subject by the hon. and gallant Member on the 13th June last.†

### Bombay Quarantine Restrictions on Mecca Pilgrims.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Turkish Government has agreed to the removal by the Government of India of the quarantine restrictions imposed at Bombay upon Mahomedan pilgrims to Mecca.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The quarantine regulations in question were imposed, and have been removed by the Government of India on their own initiative, and without previous reference to the Turkish Government. They have been discontinued, as they were found to be superfluous for the detection of plague, while injurious to the comfort and health of the pilgrims. The Turkish Government has been fully informed of these considerations, and of the precautionary measures which have been substituted for quarantine at Bombay.

### Pay, Pensions, etc., of East India Company Officials.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that, under cap. 6 of 21 and 22 Victoria, the officers of the East India Company's service were guaranteed pay, pension, allowances, privileges, and advantages as regards promotion as if they had continued in the service of the Company, and that such transferred officers were granted promotion accordingly from 1858 to 1891; and will he explain why since 1891 such promotion has been stopped.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*): I am not aware of any instance in which the provisions of 21 and 22 Vic., c. 136, s. 56, to which the Question of the hon. Member apparently refers, have been violated, nor have any representations been made to the Secretary of State on the subject for over ten years.

### Belfast Military Canteen—Beer and Grocery Contracts.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the name of the person who holds the contract for the supply of beer to the military canteen in Belfast, and the name of the person who holds the contract for the supply of groceries; and whether both the canteen and the grocery store are open for trading on Sundays.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Question refers to a matter of local administration; the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Ireland has been asked to furnish the information.

### Deferred Pay of D. Bremner (3rd Infantry Brigade, Aldershot).

MR. SALTER (Hants, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet completed the inquiries promised on the 2nd July last into the case of D. Bremner, formerly corporal in charge of the medical inspection room, 3rd Infantry Brigade, Aldershot, who was discharged from the Army on the 6th February, 1906, after twenty-four and a half years' service, without receiving the deferred pay to which he became entitled on his discharge, such deferred pay being withheld from him on the alleged ground that he was only a private and had improperly drawn corporal's pay from 1st November, 1902, until 31st January, 1906; whether Bremner was not, in fact, appointed corporal by the colonel commanding the 42nd Regimental District in July, 1901, and therefore, until the date of his discharge, continuously performed corporal's duties, drew corporal's pay with the knowledge and sanction of the Pay Office, and was allowed to wear corporal's uniform; and, if so, will he state, in view of the facts, what justification exists for withholding Bremner's deferred pay, and whether it will now be paid to him, or what other course it is proposed to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This case has been very fully inquired into by the Army Council, and, in view of the fact that Bremner was aware that an improper rate of pay was being issued to him and that he had no right to wear a corporal's stripe, it was decided to withhold the issue of his deferred pay as a set-off against the amount of pay he had improperly drawn.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 959.

### Disposal of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Disbanded Regiments.

MR. SALTER: To ask the Secretary of State for War what course it is proposed to take in regard to the officers and non-commissioned officers of those battalions which are about to be disbanded.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The officers and non-commissioned officers of these battalions will be supernumerary to the establishment of the Army, and will remain on full pay until they can be absorbed in their own or other regiments. I may add that every endeavour will be made to mitigate any injury to officers' prospects entailed by these reductions.

### Women's Enfranchisement.

SIR GEORGE DOUGHTY: To ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the disturbance caused by women within the precincts of this House and their subsequent imprisonment, he will state whether it is the intention of the Government to deal with the question of granting votes to women either in the present or the next session.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*): I do not see the connection between the disturbance referred to and the intentions of the Government, which are not likely to be affected by incidents of the kind. It would be impossible to deal with this important question this session, nor am I able to say anything at present as to the business for next session.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### H.M.S. "Duncan."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the estimated cost of the repairs of H.M S. "Duncan," in connection with the damage done when she touched ground at Lundy Island?

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Five hundred pounds.

### Soap Contracts for the Admiralty.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any of the soap purchased by the Admiralty has been purchased from firms associated with the soap trust?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It has not been necessary for the Admiralty to make fresh contracts for soap since the reports have appeared in the Press regarding the formation of a combine by certain soap manufacturing firms. A number of the firms on the Admiralty list are reported to have joined the combine, while others apparently have not done so.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will the Admiralty take steps to ensure that in future no soap is purchased from firms interested in the trust?

[No Answer was returned.].

### Naval Shipbuilding.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is the intention of the Admiralty to lay down the ship at Pembroke, which has been officially described both as a mother ship for destroyers and as a scout, before Vote 8 of next year's Estimates is passed?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It is intended to lay down the ship referred to soon after the beginning of the next financial year, and, therefore, before the Estimates are brought on.

MR. BELLAIRS: Is it intended to lay the ship down before Vote 8 is passed?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I am told that Vote will not be taken till June or July and the ship will be laid down before that.

### Rifle Clubs.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now state whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to stimulate the growth of rifle clubs throughout the country by a grant from Imperial funds.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): I regret that I am unable to add anything to my reply to a Question asked by the hon. Member on this subject on the 28th June last.†

### Volunteer Training.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the Volunteer year commences on the 1st November, he is yet in a position to state if it is intended to compel Volunteer battalions willing to train in camp for fifteen days to train only seven days, now that the Volunteer Field Army Brigades will cease to exist after the current financial year.

MR. HALDANE: I regret that I am not yet in a position to announce a decision on this question.

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT: When is a decision likely to be given?

MR. HALDANE: Very soon.

### 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Army Council is calling for the names of subaltern officers of the Imperial Yeomanry who are desirous of being attached to the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons; and, if so, will he state the grounds on which this step is being taken.

MR. HALDANE: The 6th Dragoons are short of four subalterns, and it is proposed, as a temporary measure, to select two Yeomanry officers for service with this regiment. They will be attached for duty with it.

### Sword Contracts.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any orders for swords or sword-bayonets have been placed with private firms during the present year; whether the practice of accepting delivery at contractor's works is still pursued; what are the qualifications of the officers who pass the work; and what furthur examination is made prior to final acceptance by the War Office.

MR. HALDANE: No orders for sword or sword-bayonets have been placed with private firms this year except for experimental swords for trial. Orders have, however, been given to a private firm for the conversion of 10,000 sword-bayonets. The practice of accepting delivery at the contractor's works is still in force. The officers employed in inspecting small arms are selected for this duty on account of their special knowledge obtained through their training at the Ordnance College, Woolwich. No further examination is carried out after the examination at the contractor's works in accordance with the specification has been made.

### War Office Soap Contracts.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any of the soap purchased for purposes of his Department has been purchased from any of the firms associated with the soap trust.

MR. HALDANE: No contracts for soap have been placed by this Department during the past six months, but tenders are now under considerations.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman exclude firms associated with the soap trust?

MR. HALDANE: We go on the principle of getting the cheapest and the best.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman see that no soap is obtained from any firm connected with a trust the principal of which contributes to the Party funds of the Liberal Party?

[No Answer was returned.]

### Waltham Abbey.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he can now state definitely the arrangement come to as to the wages at Waltham Abbey.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clix., 1110.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.): No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the wages at Waltham Abbey.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Is there any prospect of an early settlement?

*MR. BUCHANAN: Yes, I hope so.

### 3rd Coldstream Guards.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office what allowance will the Government make to the married officers and non-commissed officers of the 3rd Coldstream Guards to meet the expenses of their journey to Egypt in this October and their return to this country twelve months hence.

MR. BUCHANAN: These officers and non-commissioned officers will receive the usual regulated allowances. It is not intended to treat this battalion, in respect of the expenses of its move, differently from other infantry battalions.

### Newfoundland.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is not usual to obtain the adherence of a self-governing colony to any agreement with a foreign Power before applying the provisions of that agreement to that colony; and, if so, on what ground this practice was departed from in the case of the Newfoundland fisheries.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The agreement to which I understand the hon. Member to refer is a temporary arrangement intended to avoid the occurrence of untoward incidents during a discussion which has become necessary in consequence of action which the colonial Government has taken in spite of the representations of His Majesty's Government. The usual course has been followed in regard to this temporary agreement of consulting the colonial Government at every step; but the ultimate responsibility for the action taken by Great Britain in order to give effect to her treaty engagements with foreign Powers necessarily rests upon His Majesty's Government. My hon. friend will discover in the action of Lord Salisbury's Government in 1890 in the matter of the *modus vivendi* with France respecting the Newfoundland Lobster Fishery, should he find the time to examine it, ample and conclusive precedent for the course adopted.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Is it not the fact that Lord Salisbury acted with the full concurrence of the colony, whereas the action of his Majesty's Government in the present case is by no means with the concurrence of the colony?

[No Answer was returned.]

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will lay on the Table the correspondence with the United States Government and the Government of Newfoundland, which led up to the present *modus vivendi* with reference to the Newfoundland fisheries.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): Steps are being taken to prepare the Papers, which will be laid before the House at the earliest moment possible.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give any indication when we may expect to have the Papers, and whether they will include the whole of the correspondence between the colony and the Government?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am in consultation with the Colonial Office as to the preparation of the Papers, and am not now able to answer the Question of the noble Lord.

### Chinese Coolies in South African Mines.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what number of Chinese coolies were employed in the South African mines on 1st October, 1905, and 1st October, 1906.

MR. CHURCHILL: The numbers on 30th September, 1905, were 44,538; the numbers for 30th September, 1906, 53,430. I have not the numbers for 1st October.

### Harrar.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now state who has been appointed to succeed Ras Makunen as Governor of Harrar.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am not aware that a successor to the late Ras Makunen has yet been appointed.

MR. ASHLEY: Is there no Governor of Harrar?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can only repeat I am not aware of any successor having been appointed.

### Curacoa Sulphate Mines.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the case of a British subject, named Godden, who is the chief proprietor of the sulphate mines in the island of Curaçoa, West Indies, who persists, for reasons of his own, in keeping the mines only partially employed, thereby depriving many people of work and bringing hardship upon the inhabitants; whether the Dutch Government, as a result of this, is proposing to enact a law to acquire all mines which are not being fully worked, paying the owners due compensation; whether Mr. Godden has stated that he would secure the intervention of the British Government, should this be done; and whether he has any official authority for this statement.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The matter has been brought to my knowledge, as well as to that of my predecessor. A Bill has been introduced into the Netherlands Chambers having for its object the regulation of mining in the Island of Curaçoa and modelled on the laws of Netherland East India on the subject. I understand that the Bill has been drawn so as not to be retroactive. I have no information as to the statement to which the hon. Member alludes; the action of His Majesty's Government has been confined to expressing unofficially to the Netherlands Government their hope, before the introduction of the Bill, that it would not in any way be detrimental to existing British interests.

### Aliens in the British Consular Service.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will grant a Return of all members of the consular and diplomatic services who are either aliens or Levantines.

SIR EDWARD GREY: There are no aliens in the diplomatic service, nor in the salaried Consular service. A few of His Majesty's consuls are Englishmen who are believed to have been born in the Levant. I could perhaps obtain this information for the hon. Member, but a published Return seems hardly called for. A list of unsalaried members of the Consular Service will be found on pp. 14 to 18 of the Foreign Office list. Those who are not of British nationality are easily distinguishable by their names.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Have the Government any intention as far as possible of replacing foreigners by British subjects as Vice-Consuls?

SIR EDWARD GREY: There are no foreigners in the salaried Consular service. The unsalaried Consular service is composed generally of persons engaged in trade. Wherever a British subject is resident and is suitable, of course he is appointed in preference to a foreigner.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: May I ask whether, in appointing these British Consuls and Vice-Consuls, it is made a condition that they shall be capable of speaking the English language?

SIR EDWARD GREY: Perhaps the hon. Member will give notice of this Question. But in regard to the unsalaried Consular service, of course it is not a regular service in the ordinary sense of the term, and it is necessary in appointing unpaid persons engaged in trade to take the best men available.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: But does not the unsalaried Vice-Consul take fees on everything he does in pursuance of his office?

Sir EDWARD GREY: He has allowances which cover the expenses of the office, but there is no salary.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: Is it not the case that when the Consul is absent the Vice-Consul discharges his duty, and may be called upon to act for him and represent this country where national interests are concerned, and, therefore, would it not be better to have a British subject wherever possible to act as Vice-Consul?

Sir EDWARD GREY: I think it follows from my previous Answer that wherever a British subject is available he would be appointed in preference to a foreigner.

### Arzila.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he proposes to dispatch a war ship to Arzila in order to protect the lives and property of British subjects.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The latest information is to the effect that order has been restored by Raisuli at Arzila, and that the only British subjects who were known to be in the place have left in safety. It is not proposed to send a ship of war.

### Undesirable Immigrants.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Home Office has laid down a Rule that immigrants thrown back upon this country by the American Republic as diseased and undesirable are, if they aver they are refugees, to be treated as first arrivals; and if he will say whether steps are taken to secure the separation of administrative decisions from any race or creed sympathy.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): No such rule has been made. Alien transmigrants who fail to reach or obtain admission to their destination in America are not allowed to remain in the United Kingdom except in circumstances approved by the Secretary of State in each case under the special powers given him by Section 8 (1) (b) of the Act. Such permission has only been given in a very few exceptional cases. As regards the second part of the hon. and gallant Member's Question, I have to say that of course I am personally responsible for all Home Office decisions. While I sympathise with his anxiety that equal justice shall be done, I can assure him that though I hold the Christian faith, I do not allow my creed sympathies to interfere with the administration of the law when those are concerned who profess a different faith.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Then the statement of the *Jewish Chronicle* of 12th October may be considered to have no foundation in fact?

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have not seen the passage.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Should not the word "antipathy" be substituted for "sympathy" in the Question.

[No Answer was returned.]

### Trades Unions and Coroners' Inquests.

*Mr. HOOPER (Dudley): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an official of a recognised trade union, to which a workman belonged at the time of his death by accident, can attend the inquest as the representative of the deceased if requested to do so by his personal representatives or next of kin; and, if not, whether he will instruct coroners to grant the requisite permission.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have of course no power to regulate rights of audience in any court, but under the provisions of Section 21 (2) of the Factory Act and Section 48 (8) of the Coal Mines Act the relatives of a person who has met his death by accident in a factory or mine are empowered to attend the inquest and, either personally or by agent, to examine witnesses, subject to the order of the coroner. I know of no reason to prevent an official of a trade union acting as such agent at the request of the relatives, and I am informed that it is, in fact, the practice of nearly all, if not all, coroners to give permission to such representatives and to afford them every facility to elicit any special point, and to accept their assistance in ascertaining the true facts of the case.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are stipulations in the Workmen's Compensation Acts authorising the appearance of the agents appointed by relatives, and will he instruct the coroners' courts to bear that in mind?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware of that, but I have no knowledge of any cases where coroners have refused to give effect to the provisions referred to.

### Diachylon.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the cases of two women, Sarah Elizabeth Carford and Polly West, tried and found guilty of supplying dangerous pills containing diachylon at the Sheffield Quarter Sessions on the 25th inst., and sentenced to twelve and six months imprisonment with hard labour; and whether, considering the increasing use of diachylon by women for certain purposes, he can see his way to have this drug and its preparations scheduled as a poison.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have seen a report of the cases referred to by the hon. Member. I am informed that the Lord President of the Council is advised that to schedule diachylon as a poison would entail great inconvenience without attaining the object desired. It may be hoped that the convictions at Sheffield will serve as an effective deterrent.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Has the right hon. Gentleman taken into consideration the increasing use of this drug?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That is a different matter.

### Bolton Poaching Case.

*MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a decision given by the magistrates at the county police court held at Bolton on the 8th inst., when three men were convicted for poaching and assaulting a gamekeeper and three policemen, and sentenced, two of them to six months imprisonment with hard labour, and to find securities at the end of the term, or in default undergo a further term of twelve months imprisonment, while the other man was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour, and to find securities or be imprisoned for a further six months, while, for assaulting the keeper one man was sentenced to two months, and for assaulting the police, the other two men were sentenced to six months imprisonment, the terms of imprisonment to be consecutive; and whether he will inquire into the case with the object of reducing the sentences imposed.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My attention having been called to the case by my hon. friend's Question, I asked the magistrates for a report, which I have received to-day. At present I can only say that great violence was used on the keepers, the prisoners being armed with formidable bludgeons, that the prisoners might have been tried by a jury at quarter sessions, but elected to be tried at petty sessions, and that the sentences for night poaching are concurrent with the sentences for the assaults, and not consecutive.

MR. W. T. WILSON: Was not the word consecutively used when the sentences were passed?

*MR. GLADSTONE: My information is that they are concurrent and not consecutive. I have no information as to the words used in passing sentence.

### Hugh Watt.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will direct that the one year's imprisonment, to which the sentence upon Hugh Watt has been reduced, shall count from the commencement of the sessions at which he was convicted. Will the right hon. Gentleman also direct that Watt shall have the benefit of the marks he has earned for good conduct whilst in prison?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Hugh Watt's term of detention before his release on licence will, subject of course to his good conduct, be one year from the first day of the sessions at which he was convicted, namely, the 11th of December, 1905. I have decided to advise this great lenience on the assumption that his conduct will be good. I cannot add anything further to it on that account.

### Assistant Inspectors of Factories.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can now give particulars of the proposed classification scheme relating to the *status* and new duties of assistant inspectors of factories mentioned in his speech in the House on the 1st August; and whether these officers, most of whom have over ten years service, are still forbidden to enter factories.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The proposed new scheme is under consideration with the Treasury, from whom I am at present awaiting a reply. Pending the introduction of that scheme, no alteration is being made in the duties of the assistants.

### Diseased Alien Immigrants.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why Taube Genen, Schie Birow, and Josef Gureivitz, who were refused admittance to the United States of America as suffering from trachoma and being otherwise undesirable associates for the citizens of the Republic, were, upon their rejection at New York, admitted, on his special order, to this country as desirable immigrants; and if he can explain the reasons for the course adopted, and say how many of His Majesty's subjects have since been infected with the contagious disorders from which these aliens were suffering.

*MR. GLADSTONE: These three persons were not immigrants within the meaning of the Act, but transmigrants. The woman named Genen was suffering from trachoma, and the two men from hernia and heart disease respectively. An appeal was made on their behalf on the ground that they were refugees from disturbed parts of Russia, and, after careful inquiry, I decided to allow them to remain in the United Kingdom under the special powers given me with regard to transmigrants by Section 8 (1) (*b*) of the Act. Before doing so, I obtained guarantees for the medical treatment of the woman with a view to prevent infection and to effect a cure, and for the maintenance of the two men.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Is it a fact that these persons were refused admission into the United States as unfit associates for citizens of the Republic?

*MR. GLADSTONE replied that they were refused admission.

### Registration of Joint Stock Companies in Guernsey.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he is aware of the growing practice of registering joint stock companies in Guernsey, for the purpose of carrying on business in England, thus avoiding the stamp duty payable upon English registration, and also depriving the shareholders of the protection afforded by various companies Acts passed in recent years and which have not been adopted by the island; and whether he is prepared to advise His Majesty's Government to take any action in the matter.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my hon. friend. The practice of registering joint stock companies in the Island of Guernsey is not a growing, but a rapidly declining one, as appears from the figures given in the 15th Report of the Board of Trade, under Section 39 of the Companies (Winding up) Act of 1890, page 7. The matter has been dealt with by the Insular Legislature, which has drafted a *Projet de Loi*, now under consideration. The subject is also being considered by the Treasury and the Board of Trade in connection with the Report of the Departmental Committee on Company Law Amendment recently issued.

### Birmingham School Teacher and Outside Employment.

*MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to a case in Birmingham where the head teacher at the Birmingham School of Art, receiving a salary of £400 per annum for his services as teacher of modelling, has been for some time working at stone carving on a number of new buildings in the district, thus displacing competent stone carvers, whose only means of earning a living is to work at their trade; and, if so, will he say whether this is a violation of the regulations; and whether an inquiry will be made into the case, and steps taken generally to prohibit the adoption of such practice in future.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) I surmise that the person referred to was the principal teacher of the modelling department of the school and not its head-master. The teaching staff of the Birmingham School of Art are employed by the local education authority, and do not serve the Board of Education. The only regulation of the Board, as regards schools of art receiving grants from the Board, bearing on such a matter, is one which enacts that the teaching staff "must not engage in any other employment which will prevent the efficient discharge of their duties as teachers." The Board have no knowledge of this particular case, but certainly work of the nature referred to in the Question would not be any infringement of this regulation. The Board have no power under the Regulations to intervene unless they have grounds for supposing that the employment of the teacher on outside work was, in fact, interfering with the efficient discharge of his duties as a teacher. The matter is one for the local authority to consider.

*MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the head master of the Birmingham Art School stated that no teacher was allowed to carry on business outside, and yet this teacher has contracted to do outside labour ?

MR. BIRRELL: That is a question for the local authority. I can only intervene with a teacher who undertakes work which interferes with the efficient discharge of his duty.

*MR. O'GRADY: But is not the right hon. Gentleman of opinion that such work as this would interfere with the teacher's work in his school ?

MR. BIRRELL: If it were brought to my notice that a teacher was doing outside work to interfere with his teaching business I should intervene.

*MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that men engaged in stone carving in Birmingham have pointed out that it is an interference ?

MR. BIRRELL: Then why does not the local authority interfere ? If the matter is brought to my notice I will consider if it does interfere with the duties of the teacher.

### Rifle Shooting in Schools.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether any Order similar to that of the Kent authority to allow the practice of rifle shooting in elementary schools was petitioned for previously by any other county authority and refused by the late Administration.

MR. BIRRELL: So far as I can discover, no such application was made during the late Administration. Two applications were, however, received in 1901—one from Manningtree National School (Essex), the other from Kimblesworth Colliery School (Durham). These applications were refused. It must be remembered that there were at that time no local education authorities claiming to represent the views of the ratepayers.

MR. J. WARD: In view of the fact that these five orders were issued under a misapprehension, will the hon. Gentleman direct their revocation at once ?

MR. BIRRELL: I have already stated that having regard to the letters that were written it would not be fair to the local authority, who were entitled to assume that the letters were written with authority.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Is it intended also to prohibit the handling of rifles at drill in the schools ?

MR. BIRRELL: Pending the Report the use of rifles will not be tolerated in the schools.

### Swansea School Dispute.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Swansea local education authority have passed a resolution deciding, in breach of their legal duties and in defiance of the decision of the right hon. Gentleman, to cease to maintain some Swansea voluntary schools; and will he say whether they have given formal notice to that effect to the managers and the Board of Education.

Mr. BIRRELL: The resolution of the 19th instant of the Swansea local education authority merely expressed their intention to adopt a certain course at a future date. From a communication that the Board of Education have now received it is understood that that intention will not be carried out and that the notified cessation of maintenance will not, in fact, occur.

Lord R. CECIL: Is it not the fact that at the conference at Cardiff a resolution condemning the action of the Department was put without protest by the President of the Board of Trade, who presided ?

Mr. BIRRELL: If the noble Lord has ever attempted to act as peacemaker he will know the difficulty and will be aware that it is best to say nothing in the course of the operation.

### Free Meals for School Children.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can say if it will be possible for the Government to give the necessary time this session for the further discussion of the Provision of Meals for School Children Bill, which now awaits Report to the House from a Select Commiteee.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg at the same time to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman is aware that the Committee which considered this Bill reported that the unhealthy appearance of many of the children was often erroneously attributed to want of food, and was rather due to late hours, unsanitary surroundings, and work out of school; whether the Committee were precluded from considering these other causes; and whether, before proceeding with a Bill which ignored these other causes, the Government will appoint a Committee to consider the subject, with a sufficiently wide reference.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs): I have only just received the notice of my hon. friend's somewhat argumentative Question. Of course there may be other reasons for an unhealthy appearance than want of food. I have known of cases where the unhealthy appearance was created by too much food. In dealing with this question generally, it is the fact that starvation is not the only cause of unhealthy appearance. With regard to the Question on the Paper, I hope that an opportunity may be found for proceeding with this Bill, which is, I believe, largely supported on both sides of the House. But, of course, I ought to add this. If the legislation at present or shortly to come before the House is very much delayed, this and possibly other useful measures will be endangered.

### Magazine Rates for Canada.

Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has been able to make any progress towards arriving at an arrangement by which a reduction of the postal rates to Canada on British magazines, periodicals, and newspapers may be effected, having regard to the special circumstances of the case.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): As the hon. Member is, I think, aware, some little time ago I made certain proposals to the Dominion Government with a view to a revision of the postage rates on newspapers and periodicals to Canada; and the Dominion Government are now considering these proposals in a friendly spirit.

### Post Office Clocks.

Mr. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether regulations have been issued for clocks to be provided in all post offices for the use of the public; whether these are to be provided at the expense of the Department or of the sub-postmasters; and whether increments in the salaries of sub-postmasters of several years standing are being used to bring pressure upon these sub-postmasters to provide the clocks at their own expense, although this condition was not in their original agreements.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: In May, 1903, instructions were issued that all newly appointed sub-postmasters, as a condition of their appointment, and as part of their undertaking to supply satisfactory accommodation, should be required to supply clocks visible to the public. These instructions do not apply to those sub-postmasters who were appointed prior to May, 1903. There is no record of any case in which pressure has been brought to bear on a sub-postmaster in the circumstances mentioned by the hon. Member.

### Local Post Office Guides.

Mr. MACLEAN (Bath): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will take steps to publish monthly in all important postal centres a local Post Office Guide, similar to those published in Edinburgh and district and Liverpool and district.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The sale of local Post Office Guides at such offices as those mentioned by the hon. Member is very small and their publication results in a considerable loss to the Post Office. I fear it would not be practicable therefore to extend the issue of local Post Office Guides, but I am considering the matter.

### Soap for the Office of Works.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether any of the soap purchased for the purposes of the Office of Works, or of any of the Departments for the supply of soap to which he is responsible, has been supplied by any of the firms associated with the soap trust.

The FIRST COMMISSIONER of WORKS (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale): The following firms associated with the soap manufacturers' combination are at present under contract to supply soap, viz., Crosfield & Sons, Ltd., for best Windsor soap and soap powder, Vinolia Co., Ltd., for household bar soaps.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman "bar" soap from these firms in future?

[No Answer was returned.]

### Welsh Trade Union Dispute.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he proposes to instruct the Public Prosecutor to take any action in the case of two non-unionists who were taken by force in the Maesteg district of Wales on 4th September last, tied together in a wheelbarrow and thrown into a river, with the view of bringing the offenders to justice.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.): If such a charge as that described in the Question could be substantiated I should certainly direct steps to be taken to bring the offenders to justice. But the Public Prosecutor informs me that he has received a letter from the Chief Constable, in which he says that, after inquiries made on the spot, he has been unable to discover that the wheelbarrow incident mentioned in the Question ever took place.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydfil): Was not the whole thing a practical joke?

Sir JOHN WALTON: I am afraid that it did not take place even as a joke.

### Government Printing Contracts.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been directed to the fact that, according to the Report of the Official Publications Committee, the Savings Bank Department obtained the permission of the Treasury to do its own printing instead of putting it out to private contract, with the result that they have succeeded in undertaking their printing more economically than when it was contracted for; whether he is aware that some of the official printing now put out to contract is carried out by irregularly paid workmen who are compelled to wait about in the public thoroughfares on the chance of a job; and whether, under the circumstances, he will consider the advisability of saving money and insuring the regular employment of workmen by establishing a Government printing department.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.): The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. I am informed that one firm of Government printers are compelled to employ irregularly paid workmen in addition to their regular staff, because the work entrusted to them is generally of an urgent character and varies largely in amount. These additional workmen are paid at "piece-work" rates and if my information is correct even men who are in regular work elsewhere are eager to obtain this casual employment. With regard to the last part of my hon. friend's Question it is hardly necessary for me to say that the recommendations of the Select Committee are now engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY: The information I have received is that the men are paid so irregularly that sometimes they get only a few shillings a week.

Mr. McKENNA: That is not my information.

### Sanitary Condition of Lewis.

*Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that a sum of £200 out of the money payable to the Lewis District Committee as the share of the equivalent grant was allocated last year for public health purposes in the island, will he state why the Committee have not yet submitted a scheme under which this money may be applied, specially having regard to the fact that the sanitary condition of the island does not conform to the requirements of the Public Health Act, as shown in the report of Dr. Dittmar, Medical Inspector for Scotland.

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire): I have not been able to verify the statement made by the hon. Member in the early part of his Question. If he will kindly let me have definite information I shall be glad to communicate with him further.

### Dr. Dittmar's Report on the Lews.

*Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that the last Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland shows that the Board have been furnished with a Memorandum by Dr. Dittmar, Medical Inspector, entitled "Memorandum on Statistical Data presented by the Lews for Ten Years to 1904," will he lay this document upon the Table of the House.

Mr. SINCLAIR: As I have already informed my hon. friend, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by presentation to Parliament at the present time of the Report in question.

*Mr. WEIR: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that phthisis is so prevalent in the Island of Lewis that in the interest of the public the Report should be laid?

Mr. SINCLAIR: The Report adds nothing to the information already before Parliament.

### Scottish Medical Inspectorate.

*Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that while in Scotland there are five inspectors under the Public Health Acts, only one of whom is a medical officer, there are in Ireland seven medical inspectors, and seeing that it is impossible for one medical inspector to overtake the whole of the work for Scotland, will he consider the advisability of arranging in next year's Estimates for additional medical inspectors for Scotland.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I cannot at present undertake to provide for the additional medical inspection suggested by the hon. Member.

### Kells Fishing Industry.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Congested Districts Board has been called to the memorial presented by the fishermen of Kells, county Kerry, urging that a pier be built; and whether, in view of the facts that there are twenty-two fishing boats in this cove, that the crews number in all seventy hands, that the catch of fish last season was 250,000, and that there is difficulty in landing boats, this application, first presented eleven years ago, will now be acceded to.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): I am informed that the memorial in question has been received and will be considered at the next meeting of the Congested Districts Board.

### Irish Trade Reports.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any, and, if so, what, steps have been taken by the Department of Agriculture to secure the publication in a succinct form of the various references to the trade of Ireland with foreign countries contained in the Consular Reports for 1905.

MR. BRYCE: The Department of Agriculture have collected the references to Irish Trade contained in the Consular Reports for 1905, and propose to publish them as an appendix to the Report on Irish Imports and Exports for 1905 which is to be issued.

### County Down Deputy Lieutenancy.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many deputy lieutenants can be appointed for the county of Down; whether he can explain why all the thirty-four deputy lieutenants at present holding appointments in that county are Unionists, although nearly half the population are either Nationalists or Liberals; and whether the Crown can withhold its sanction from such appointments.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I dissent from the statement in the Question regarding the population.

MR. BRYCE: The number of deputy lieutenants for the county of Down as at present fixed is thirty-four. There is no official record of the political views of gentlemen who hold the office. Appointments to the deputy lieutenancy in Ireland are subject to the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant, who can withhold his sanction.

MR. MACVEAGH: I know the political views of them all well.

### Royal University of Ireland.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any regulations were made by the Senate of the Royal University of Ireland for the issue of tickets for the conferring of degrees; and, if so, whether he can state the terms of such regulations.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Secretary of the Royal University that regulations as to the issue of tickets for admission to the conferring of degrees have been made by a committee appointed by the Senate for the purpose. The regulations provide the maximum of tickets which may be issued to each person of the following classes who may apply, viz., twelve to each Senator, six to each fellow or examiner, three to each candidate graduate, and one to each distinguished graduate. In the latter case the ticket is to be used for the graduate's own admission, and the number issued is not to exceed 100.

### Land Court Work in Ireland.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the end of September, 1906, there were 13,306 applications to fix fair rents and 9,329 appeals in connection with rents undisposed of by the Land Commission and county courts in Ireland; and whether any steps will be taken to deal with these applications at once.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the facts are as stated. Of the 13,306 applications mentioned, the number pending before the Sub-Commission Courts consisted of 7,732, as compared with 9,025 outstanding on 31st March last. That is to say, during the six months in question there was a decrease of 1,293 in the number of cases undisposed of, notwithstanding the fact that the summer vacation had intervened. The remainder of the applications, viz., 5,573, consist of cases apparently pending in the Civil Bill Courts, but this number includes part of an apparent but not real arrear of 4,915 cases brought forward from the year 1894 under the circumstances stated in the Annual Report of the Land Commission for that year. The 9,329 outstanding appeals referred to include 517 lodged during the vacation. The number outstanding on 31st March last was 9,043, as compared with 12,071 on 31st March, 1905. The question of expediting the hearing of applications and appeals is now under my consideration.

### Lisnagry Labourers Cottage.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of a labourer named Thomas Ryan, of Lisnagry, county Limerick, who made application to the No. 1 District Council, Limerick, for a cottage on the lands of Mr. Robert L. Brown, at Lisnagry, the tenant being James Ryan, of Castle Connell; whether he is aware that an inquiry was held on oath at the Limerick Union in November, 1905; that the doctor of the district proved on oath at this inquiry that this labourer, Thomas Ryan, with his wife and seven children, lived in a house that was unfit for human habitation; and that the councillor for the district gave similar evidence, and will he say what objection, if any, was made, and who made it; and whether, under the circumstances, the Local Government Board will be instructed to press this matter so that this man may be enabled to get a decent shelter for his family.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the facts are as stated. The application was opposed by the owner and occupier of the holding on which it was proposed to erect the cottage upon the grounds that the holding contained only twenty acres, and that the proper course would be to erect the cottage on the farm of seventeen acres upon which the applicant resides. The local district councillors, though supporting the application, assigned no reason why the council passed over the site on the holding upon which the labourer lives and chose a plot on a farm immediately adjoining, the occupier of which is a Mr. James Ryan. The inspector consequently recommended that the proposed site should not be authorised. A Provisional Order, authorising the council's scheme to the extent recommended by the inspector, has now been issued, and the Local Government Board are not empowered to add to it. There is, however, nothing to prevent a new scheme being made for giving the labourer a cottage, and I hope this may be promptly done.

MR. JOYCE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this particular tenant is farming fifty acres not far distant?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware of it.

### Mountmellick Evicted Tenant.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the agent on Mrs. Adair's estates at Mountmellick, Mr. E. Brown, has refused to permit the inspector to the Estates Commissioners to approach the planter who is in occupation of the holding from which Thomas Flanagan was evicted with the view of coming to an arrangement with him; and, if so, can he say what steps the Commissioners propose taking to effect the reinstatement, or otherwise provide a holding for Flanagan.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. It is understood that the present tenant of the evicted farm has signed a preliminary agreement to purchase. The Estates Commissioners, however, are in communication with Mrs. Adair as to the purchase of certain untenanted land in the locality, and Flanagan's application will be considered in connection with that or other untenanted land in the district which the Commissioners may acquire.

### Soap for the Irish Board of Works.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any of the soap purchased by the Irish Board of Works for the purposes of that Department has been supplied by any of the firms associated with the soap trust.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire N.): I am informed that a portion of the soap supplied to the Board by their contractors has been obtained from firms associated with what the hon. Member describes as the "Soap Trust."

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will the hon. Gentleman take steps to see that no soap is in future supplied by these firms.

MR. McKENNA: Certainly not.

### Kilgarvan (Cork) Postal Service.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is now in a position to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in order to improve the postal facilities at Kilgarvan, county Kerry, in accordance with the memorial submitted to him.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I find that the deficit on the postal service to Kilgarvan is already very heavy and the correspondence is light. I am afraid, therefore, that I should not be justified in incurring additional expense on the improvement desired by the hon. Member.

### Local Taxation Reform.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce a measure next session dealing with the reform of local taxation.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I must refer the hon. Member to His Majesty's gracious Speech at the beginning of next session, which will give him the information he requires.

### The Dinner Hour.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will consider the advisability of allowing Members an interval for the dinner hour.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir; my belief is that the present arrangement is advantageous to public business. Whether this be so or not we have hardly had sufficient experience of it yet to justifiy the consideration of a change.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: The Prime Minister will observe that I was careful not to mention any time in my Question. I was moved to ask the Question by the fact that one of the right hon. Gentleman's unfortunate colleagues — unfortunate in the way of having no dinner—complained that he was only mortal, and, although conducting a Bill, had been obliged to go out to get dinner.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have not observed that my right hon. friend has suffered in consequence. I am informed and advised by my medical advisers that the meal to be taken in the evening ought to be an exceedingly light one.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Perhaps the Prime Minister will consult the medical adviser of his right hon. friend who got no food at all.

---

### SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Census of Production Bill: Lord Balcarres, Mr. Harmood-Banner, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, Mr. Boland, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Brigg, Mr. Lever, Mr. Waterlow, Mr. J. W. Wilson, Mr. Cory, Mr. Hutton, Captain Faber, Mr. Richardson, Sir George Doughty, and Mr. Cairns.

Report to lie upon the Table.

---

### PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham), in the Chair.]

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, after the words last inserted, to insert the words, 'In the event of the person's name being removed from the register the clerk shall give him notice that his name has been removed.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that there was one point which it occurred to him might very well arise, viz., that some gentleman who had not taken the trouble to make his selection before 5th September, might make up his mind that under the Bill he could exercise his vote for the next year. When the revision came, however, he would be struck off and would find that he was not qualified to vote. He thought that under such circumstances a man should have a chance of recording that vote.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) thought the right hon. Gentleman would observe that a man's name might be struck off the register in the Revision Court, but this could only be done after the delivery of the objection to the voter, so that he was in no danger of losing his vote, neither was he in danger of being struck off.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said that when the Committee rose the previous night he was endeavouring to point out the essential character of the words contained in the Amendment and the importance of their being embodied in the present Bill. In the absence of these words a voter who was qualified in three constituencies, if an objection taken to his name in one constituency was sustained—unless he was advised of the fact of his removal—would very properly take no action with regard to the other constituencies for which he was qualified; whereas if he received a notice of the removal of his name in one constituency he would have an opportunity, according to an undertaking given by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, of selecting one of the other constituencies in which his name appeared on the register. In the event of his getting no notice, however, this would practically mean disfranchisement. Such a condition of things seemed most unjust. Many felt that voters under the Bill were receiving very harsh treatment, and his hon. friend's Amendment was framed for the alleviation of that harshness. If it were possible for a man to be many years on the register without his knowing it, it was far more likely that he might be struck off the register and yet not be told. No notice was now given to the ordinary voter, which was rather a source of grief to him, and was often very hard upon him. He had known cases where a voter, unaware of the fact that his name had been struck off the register, had devoted part of a day, and travelled a considerable distance in order to record his vote, only to find, however, when he reached the polling booth, that he could not exercise the right for which he was duly qualified, because, owing to some slight misunderstanding, his name had been removed from the register. If notice were sent to a voter who had three qualifications that his name had been removed from one of the registers he would be able to select again and so exercise his important civil right. An ordinary voter, as the Bill stood, was allowed to act in a perfectly free manner, but the poor plural voter had received a very short shrift and very little consideration from the right hon. Gentleman and hon. Members opposite. It was nothing more nor less than an attempt to filch votes from those who were best qualified to exercise them. A man might be passed over for one year by the agent of the opposition, no question being raised. Thus he would be lulled into a position of security. The following year, however, he would be struck off the register. He would have no idea that such an attempt upon his vote would be made, and consequently would fail to take the necessary steps to protect himself. Surely a man was entitled to the small consideration proposed by the Amendment if, for any cause, his name should be removed from the register. There was also another class of voters—those who wanted to put themselves into a safe position. They knew that certain penalties hung over the heads of the unconscious and the unwary, and they were desirous of making themselves immune. Such a voter, therefore, would write to one of the constituencies, asking the clerk to remove his name; he would also write to the other constituency in which he was qualified, informing them that he was no longer a plural voter. No star would be put against his name. The notice apparently would be duly received by the clerk in the first constituency. The notice would be filed, or pigeon-holed, or in some cases overlooked altogether, and the man's name retained upon the register. The man, thinking he had ceased to be a plural voter, would go down in all confidence for his ballot paper, he would vote, and then afterwards find that people were on his trail, and that a charge of personation was hanging over his head—a charge with which was associated the penalty of two years hard labour, without the option of a fine, to be afterwards followed by seven years deprivation of all civil rights. The man, of course, would immediately succumb and would not survive to take even a quarter of the term of imprisonment hanging over his head. If, however, notice was sent, as the Amendment desired, a man could not be in ignorance of the fact that his name had been removed or that his instructions as to his well-being and comfort had failed to be carried out.

The great desire of the hon. Member and his supporters was to secure some measure of consideration which at present was entirely absent from the Bill.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford) said that what had struck him throughout the whole of the debate was the way in which hon. Members ignored that annual performance known as the registration Court. They had heard a great deal about the plural voter being taken off the register without his knowledge, but if any hon. Member on the other side would look at the registration laws they would see that a vote to which objection was taken could not be removed from the register without notice being served upon the person concerned. If a voter's name was removed otherwise than because somebody declared that he was not duly qualified, the overseers must be deliberately neglecting their duty, and no Amendment of this Bill would meet that case, which belonged to another department of the law.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said that the overseers prepared the list, and if a man was qualified they were bound to put him on. The purpose of the Amendment was as to giving notice where a man's name had been left off. If a man had been on the register for the previous year, and his name had been removed for the ensuing year he should have some notice of the fact. It was entirely wrong to suppose that a man's name could not be removed from the register without his knowledge. Such removal was unfair, and it was against it that the Amend-was directed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 80; Noes, 301. (Division List No. 343.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Castlereagh Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A. (Wor
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r N'm
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt. Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham. Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Samuel Roberts and Mr. Carlile.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'set
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard. E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hex'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilare Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'r' H'ml'ts, S. Geo
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace William

*Mr. Carlile.*

Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Rbyurn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Wisnton Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Heref'd, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John

Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accr'gton
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex Harwich
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr Thomas J
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)

Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G Chiozza
Montagu, E S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Henry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'y Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manch'st'r
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie

Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim, S
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse,Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Viscount CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said he wished to move the Amendment standing in his name—

> "In page 1, line 28, after the word 'withdrawn,' to insert the words 'by that person or with his authority in writing in a form to be prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act.'"

The CHAIRMAN ruled that the Amendment was out of order.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, on a point of order, said that he understood that the noble Lord's Amendment would have been perfectly in order if he had not added the words "or with his authority." It would be in order, he believed, if these words were deleted so that the Amendment read, "by that person in writing in the form prescribed by Order in Council under this Act."

Viscount CASTLEREAGH said he would move the Amendment in the form suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

The CHAIRMAN said that the noble Lord could not move the Amendment in that form now. He would suggest that the noble Lord should hand in another Amendment.

*Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth) moved an Amendment to provide that any technical or other mistake made by the clerk or printer might be rectified by a Judge of the High Court on the application of the party affected. He thought that such an appeal was necessary in view of the decision come to on the previous day that after the register had been "starred" the decision could not come before the revising barrister or anyone who could rectify an error in the "starring." Human nature was inclined to error, and a printer or a town clerk or county council clerk, with whatever care he might take, might be guilty of making certain errors. He was only proposing that where a technical error had been committed, such as the dropping down of a "star," or the starring of another man of the same name, that technical error might be rectified in some way, on the application of the party affected, by a Judge of the High Court. If an elector took sufficient interest in his vote to take the trouble to go to the High Court to get a mistake of that kind rectified it would benefit him and put the thing straight. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'Any technical or other mistake made by the clerk or printer may be rectified by a judge of the High Court on the application of the party affected.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT said that this matter would be dealt with under his own clause, though possibly not in the actual words of the Amendment. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that the clause he had promised would cover the whole point.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) said he understood that the right hon. Gentleman had given an undertaking that there should be a cheaper Court of Appeal than the High Court.

Mr. HARCOURT said that it was his wish that they should get a cheaper and an easier Court of Appeal than the High Court.

Sir WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) said that the objection might come before the revising barrister.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that several important points in the Bill which made large alterations in the constitution of the country were being taken out of the purview of the Committee of the House of Commons.

The CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was out of order, as the subject he was discussing did not arise on the Amendment before the Committee.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that he desired to terminate his remarks by moving that progress be reported, and that leave be asked for the Committee to sit again. He did so on the ground that at least five separate important matters were to be brought up as Amendments on the Report stage by the Minister in charge of the Bill. If they were to be content with dealing with these important matters on the Report stage, it was quite clear that the House of Commons was to be deprived of the right of dealing with them in Committee; and if that practice was to be pursued the greater part of a Bill might be withdrawn from discussion in Committee. It was only reasonable, therefore, that the proceedings of the Committee should be adjourned by reporting progress in order that the Minister in charge of the Bill should have an opportunity of bringing up his Amendments in Committee. It was with that object in view and not with the idea of wasting time that he moved to report progress.

The CHAIRMAN said that he had listened to what the hon. Gentleman had said, but he could not put his Motion.

*Mr. FELL said that after the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) moved an Amendment providing that a notice should be sent to every elector on the register whose residence is not in the constituency for which he is qualified, informing him that he is registered for other than the constituency in which he resides and must make a selection. They had heard of the very serious inconvenience to which working-men were put in moving from one constituency to another in the same district by having their names on two registers involving in case of ignorance the penalty of disfranchisement. The only object he had in submitting the Amendment was to prevent this undoubted hardship and provide that at any rate the penalty should not be incurred without some intimation being given to the unwary. Notice should be given to them that they were registered electors for other than the constituency in which they resided, so as to prevent their bringing down on their heads the serious penalties provided under the Act

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, at end, to insert the words, 'The clerk of the county council, town clerk, or registration officer shall, on or before the fifteenth day of August in each year, send to all electors on the register of voters whose residence is not in the constituency for which he is qualified as a voter, a notice informing him that he is a registered elector for other than the constituency in which he resides, and that he must make a selection on or before the first day of September in accordance with this Act.' "—(*Mr. Nield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT said it was really impossible to put this great labour upon the town clerks and the clerks of county councils all over the country, and he could not contemplate imposing upon them what was proposed by the hon. Member's Amendment. The Amendment was not coherent even if it was desirable. It did not follow that all plural voters had two or three residences, and it was quite possible that a man, even although he resided in a constitutency, had not a vote. A man, moreover, might not have been at his residence long enough to qualify him for a vote. The scheme embodied in the Amendment was not a coherent one which could be incorporated in the Bill.

LORD R. CECIL considered that this was a much more important Amendment than the right hon. Gentleman seemed to indicate. The right hon. Gentleman, had, however, justly said that it would throw a large amount of work upon the town clerks and the clerks of county councils, and he had pointed out that even this Amendment would not deal with all the difficulties which arose under the Bill. What he wanted to point out was that if these duties were not carried out by the clerks they would have to be carried out, in fact, not by the voters but by somebody else. Nobody imagined that the voters themselves would send in notices of selection, but everybody knew that it would become the duty of the registration agents of the various parties to call the attention of the voters to the provisions of this Act, and to request them to send a notice of selection and take the other means necessary to prevent their being disfranchised. Therefore this labour, which the right hon. Gentleman himself said would be tremendous if it were thrown upon the town clerks or the county council clerks, would, under the Bill, be thrown upon the agents of the various Parties. What would be the effect of that? The effect would be enormously to increase the expense of registration. That would be one of the two things which this Bill would do. Those two things would be to disfranchise a large number of voters and enormously increase the cost of registration. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, No."] He thought that that assertion was so indisputable that in his judgment hon. Members who expressed their dissent, did not mean it, but were simply expressing their belief in the infallibility of the Government more than anything else. No doubt the Bill was designed for the purpose of striking off a large number of people from the register. The Liberal Party evidently thought that having got rid of one class of their opponents in the case of the Tory plural voter, they could by the same process get rid of another class of their opponents, viz., the Labour Members.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he really could not see what the argument of the noble Lord had to do with the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL said he ventured, with the greatest respect, to urge that unless this Amendment were accepted the Bill would increase the cost of registration and disfranchise a large number of people. He repeated that unless this Amendment were accepted, the Government, having disposed of the Tory Party on the one hand, would dispose of the Labour Party on the other.

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the noble Lord was saying that the object of this Bill was to get rid of such and such people and to disfranchise them. That was not a proper argument to use on this Amendment. The Committee was not now engaged in a Second Reading discussion on the intention of the measure. The noble Lord could raise the substance of his argument in another and proper way, but he was not pursuing it properly.

LORD R. CECIL said he was not aware that it was out of order to suggest what was the object of an Amendment. His argument was, however, complete, and he would not pursue the subject further.

*MR. NIELD submitted that the observation that some persons would not have had a sufficiently long residential qualification had no application whatever. The point was that when the town clerk or the clerk of the county council saw that a residential address was given which was not in the constituency he should give a notice. Everyone knew that this would not be a difficult matter, as, to take his own constituency, which numbered 20,000 voters, there were not more than 2,000 out voters. The simplest way, therefore, was to take the address of the man whose name was on the register and to send him a notice.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the argument of the right hon. Gentleman had impressed him to the effect that his hon. friend in his Amendment had not gone far enough. Having dealt with the cases which he had in his mind, a still larger number of cases would be left outside the protection of the Amendment. Let the Committee take a case mentioned the other day by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean. There an examination was made of a particular register with regard to the number of labourers or workmen who had moved their homes from one constituency to another, and whose names ought to have been struck off, but had not been struck off the register for their former place of abode. If a voter had been left on by the overseers in his old place of residence he would be disqualified under this Bill. Under the Amendment he would get no notice that his name appeared upon the register of the place which he had left. If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had merely pointed out that the Amendment would not cover all the ground which his hon. friend desired to cover, he should have been entirely at one with him, but the right hon. Gentleman went on to argue against even this restricted attempt to prevent voters who were qualified from being disfranchised under the provisions of the Bill. It was in his view essential before this Bill left the Committee that they should put into it some provisions to protect voters, to call attention to what their qualifications were, to give them an opportunity of seeing whether they had more than one vote, and to call their attention to the absolutely new duty which Parliament imposed upon them of selecting between their different qualifications before the 5th day of September, if they were to record a vote at any time during the following year. He had himself placed an Amendment upon the Paper in the form of a new clause with a view of providing that some such notice should be given. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that it was a sufficient answer to his hon. friend to say that any such proposal would entail a greal deal of work upon the town clerks, and the clerks of the county councils, but under the Bill somebody else was going to have great cause to complain of the labour entailed. He hoped he should not make an enemy of every town clerk in the country by saying that he would rather they had the trouble than the voter. If the right hon. Gentleman would make an inquiry as to the number of voters who made application for the municipal franchise he would find that it was very small indeed, and in order to get their declarations these plural voters would have to be canvassed and circularised by the agents of the different Parties unless they were to be deprived of the right to vote. There were a great number of people in this country whose politics were not known and who were not permanently attached to one political Party or the other. Who was going to look after their votes when they were not get-at-able? He ventured to say again that before the Bill left Committee it was essential that some means should be devised of giving notice to such people.

SIR WILLIAM BULL did not think the right hon. Gentleman opposite really understood what the mover of the Amendment meant when he alluded to a registered voter whose residence was not in the constituency. When the revising barrister had the list before him he looked down the two columns and at once saw the description of the qualifying property in one and the place of residence in the other, and his case was that where it was obvious that there was a difference between the two places notice should be given to the voter. In Liverpool only one voter last year came up and deliberately selected the place at which he would vote. The others left it in the hands of the Party agents.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. NIELD moved to insert the following proviso at the end of the clause:—"Provided always that the clerk shall give public notice before the registers are finally printed that they are open for inspection at his office between the hours of ten of the clock in the forenoon and four of the clock in the afternoon, and any person shall be at liberty to attend at such office for the purpose of pointing out any mistake made in regard to any selection, and the said clerk shall correct any such mistake which is proved to have been made." He pointed out that it threw no expense upon anyone. What he suggested was that after the list had been made up there should be a limited time given in which persons affected might make corrections in it. That would clear the ground considerably for the Amendments which he understood were to be moved by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. It would obviate a great deal of expense also by giving the persons affected the opportunity to correct obvious inaccuracies in the list during the period allowed by public advertisement for that purpose and avoid the necessity for an application to the High Court or even the County Court if it was proposed to give jurisdiction to that tribunal—for even County Court proceedings involved expense. After this opportunity had been given and when the lists were finally closed the inaccuracy must be a very serious one for anyone to incur the expense of an application to the Court. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 28, after the words last inserted, to insert the words 'Provided always that the clerk shall give public notice before the registers are finally printed that they are open for inspection at his office between the hours of ten of the clock in the forenoon and four of the clock in the afternoon, and any person shall be at liberty to attend at such office for the purpose of pointing out any mistake made in regard to any selection, and the said clerk shall correct any such mistake which is proved to have been made.'"—(*Mr. Nield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. HARCOURT said he could not accept this Amendment. The list could not be open to inspection before it was printed, because the margin of time at the disposal of the clerk was too narrow to permit of it. The 20th would be the last day for printing. But if the list was open to inspection after it was printed, the voter would be able to see between then and the time it became current on the 1st of January and would be able to get redress by the method he (Mr. Harcourt) had suggested.

*Mr. NIELD pointed out that he provided by his Amendment for an inspection between the time when the list was in proof and the time it was finally printed.

Mr. HARCOURT said he feared it would be impossible to depart from the date fixed under the Bill without some very special and pressing reason for the departure. Notice might be given up to the 20th, but further corrections could not be made after that date except by the order of the Court. He was, however, anxious to make that as easy as possible.

Mr. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) pointed out that some parts of the register were printed long before the 20th. As soon as one part of the register was passed by the revising barrister it was set up in type and proofs were struck, and he could not see any reason why the suggestion of his hon. friend could not be accepted in order that obvious mistakes might be corrected and the list made fairly accurate.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD regretted the right hon. Gentleman could not see his way to accept the Amendment. There were provisions in all the Acts affecting representation that these lists should be open to inspection, and seeing that the lists were in many cases printed weeks before the time suggested, and having regard to the fact that this inspection had always been allowed, he could not see why it should not be given now. At a later date, the 5th of September, the proper officer would revise the particular notice. All that was asked by the Amendment was that some further opportunity, a few days, should be given to the public to see that the register, which ought to be marked in a certain way, was, in fact, so marked.

Mr. HARCOURT said he had not the slightest intention of further limiting the time during which the list was open to the inspection of the voter. He would take care that in the Order in Council the time now available for inspection by a voter should not be diminished in any way.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) observed that if they did not allow the clerk to correct an obvious mistake they put a lawsuit upon the unfortunate voter, who would have to make an application in what the right hon. Gentleman was pleased to call some neighbouring Court, whereas all he would have to do if he were allowed to do what the Amendment suggested would be to point out to the clerk that he had sent in a notice, and to ask why his name was not on the list. It would be a very poor recompense to the voter if, after the trouble he had taken to investigate the register, he was told he must take legal proceedings before a Court to have the matter put right. Further, as he understood, the lists were signed at the end of the registration by the revising barrister. If these alterations were to hang on they would have to be put upon the lists after the revising barrister had signed them. It seemed to him to be a very bad practice and a very bad system for lists to be altered after they were signed. What was to happen, supposing the voter was successful? Was he then to be marked on the list? Suppose there were several mistakes, was the list to be reprinted, or what was to happen? Surely before the date fixed by Parliament the list should become complete, and everything should be done to make the list perfect, so that those who were qualified might be able to see their names on the register. The whole of the difficulty arose from the simple fact that those who framed the Bill, instead of leaving, as Parliament had done hitherto under the Franchise Acts, to the revising barrister the duty for which he was paid, of settling these lists, had set up an entirely new tribunal. Anything more cumbrous than this proceeding it was impossible to imagine—the clerk, revising barrister, the County Court, the High Court, and no doubt the voter would end in the Coroner's Court. He certainly thought that the Amendment of his hon. friend was a good one and should be accepted.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 85; Noes, 329. (Division List No. 344.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Wor.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E (Kent, Mid.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Nield and Mr. Marks.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hex'm)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.)
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H W
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, W,
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, D.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(AshtonunderLyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, SirA. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, D. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh, N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Woodhouse, SirJ.T. (H'd'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH moved to add at the end of sub-section (2) the words—

> "The notice of selection may be withdrawn by the voter himself, or by an agent authorised by him in writing, in a form to be prescribed by Order in Council under this Act."

These words he considered to be absolutely necessary. At the present moment there was no provision whatever in the Bill as to who might withdraw the notice of selection. In this connection there was a certain amount of ambiguity—a characteristic which had been noticed in other parts of the Bill. As the Bill stood it was possible for a notice to be sent without the authority of the voter, and it was obvious that if the town clerk acted *bona fide* on a notice of withdrawal the voter would necessarily be disfranchised. There were many persons who perhaps had a high moral character at other times, but at election times were apt to have their sense of morality dimmed, and consequently he felt that a notice of withdrawal might be sent in by an unscrupulous agent or some person with a view of not allowing a voter to exercise his right to vote. It was a point that had not been previously raised, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that it should be considered or that a penalty should be imposed in the case of anyone sending in a notice of withdrawal without the consent of the voter himself. He knew there were objections entertained by the right hon. Gentleman to a prescribed form, but he did not share those objections, for he felt sure that the electors would soon accustom themselves to the rule. The right hon. Gentleman had made a point at the beginning of the section that the notice of selection should be signed by the voter, so that he was entirely at a loss to understand why similar words had not been inserted in respect of the notice of withdrawal. He would not like to suggest that the omission was due to careless drafting, although up to the present it had been a very obvious feature of the provisions of the Bill. In moving this Amendment he was endeavouring to assist in the simplification of the working of the Bill, for while he hoped it would never come into force, if it did pass he hoped it would be in a form that would be simple and free from difficulties.

Amendment proposed—

"On page 1, line 28, to add the words, 'The notice of sleection may be withdrawn by the voter himself or by an agent authorised by him in writing in a form prescribed by Order in Council made under this Act.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. HARCOURT said he could not accept this Amendment. All through he had been very anxious to save the plural voter trouble, and now the noble Lord wished to make the withdrawal only in a prescribed form. They agreed that the form of notice of selection should be optional in the Order in Council. There would equally be an optional form of withdrawal. It would be a hardship not to be able to withdraw a notice of selection by an ordinary letter just as the voter was able to make it by an ordinary letter. Probably the noble Lord had in mind some of those unscrupulous men of whom he seemed to have had experience at election times. Any action of the kind which had been referred to would be forgery and punishable as such. He could not possibly accept the Amendment. He would like to take this opportunity of making an appeal to the Committee. This was the fifth day, and as far as he could, without sacrificing the principle of the measure, he had endeavoured to meet every reasonable request that had been made by the Opposition. He had promised to put in a number of provisions which he did not believe were necessary, and the only Amendments he had refused were those which he thought would be mischievous. He had tried to meet the wishes of hon. Members opposite in every possible way, and he hoped they would now allow the discussion on this clause to proceed more quickly.

Sir E. CARSON said the statement which they had just listened to showed that the right hon. Gentleman opposite was capable of exhibiting in this House a good deal of effrontery. [Cries of "Sneak."]

Mr. J. WARD: You are an expert on the subject.

Sir E. CARSON said anybody who had listened to the discussion must have concluded that a more ill-considered measure from any point of view had never come before the House of Commons. Early in the discussions the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean stated that the Bill had been brought in in an absolutely unworkable form. After all the efforts made by the Opposition to knock the Bill into some sort of workable shape the right hon. Gentleman came forward and made an appeal to them as if there had been obstruction in connection with the measure. There never was a case in which there was less ground for making such a charge. The present Amendment merely asked that the person who made the selection should be protected by some provision which would prevent a fraud upon him after he had made his selection, and yet such a proposal had been refused by the right hon. Gentleman.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he could not support the Amendment in its present form, but he thought a voter ought to be able to withdraw his selection by a letter or a form. A great deal had been put in the Bill with regard to the notice of selection, but from first to last in their discussions they had not heard a word about the form which the notice of withdrawal was going to take. Did the right hon. Gentleman propose that the withdrawal should be by a form or that it should be optional and that the voter would be entitled to write a letter? If so, did he propose that either the form or the letter should be signed by the voter himself? Did he propose to take the necessary steps to see that this provision would be actually put into practice and not disregarded, as the Committee had been told the existing statute was disregarded? If the right hon. Gentleman proposed to make the withdrawal on all fours with the notice of selection, why did he not say so in the Bill? He should like to know clearly, was the notice of withdrawal to be kept and preserved by the clerk in the same way as the notice of selection? Where there were a number of divisions in one borough could a man send a notice of withdrawal and selection on the same piece of paper?

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said two notices were mentioned, namely, the notice of selection and the notice of withdrawal. In his opinion the notice of withdrawal was just as important as the notice of selection, because the giving of the notice of withdrawal might be absolutely essential to secure a man's right to vote in some other constituency. The criticism which had been directed to the wording of the Bill and the arguments used in support of this Amendment showed conclusively that all the safeguards necessary to protect the notice of selection ought to be repeated and have the same application to the notice of withdrawal.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give a further answer upon this question. There was a great deal to be said for the argument that a withdrawal should only be made by the person concerned or with his authority in writing. The Amendment would not impair the principle of the Bill at all. In fact, it would be a distinct improvement. The right hon. Gentleman said his desire was to save the plural voter trouble, and he would be doing this if he made fraud impossible.

MR. HARCOURT said he agreed that the matter of selection and withdrawal should be on the same footing. He wished to keep them exactly on all fours, and if there were any words necessary to provide that the withdrawal should be made in writing by the voter himself he would see that they were introduced. They had already decided that the selection should be made by the voter and signed by him, and the withdrawal must be on the same basis. He would inquire whether any words were necessary to secure this object.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked when they might expect to see the subsection carrying out what the right hon. Gentleman had just promised.

MR. HARCOURT: On the Report stage.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said he was prepared to accept the right hon. Gentleman's assurance that on the Report stage he would put in words which would carry out the object he had in view. Under those circumstances he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. FELL moved to leave out subsection (3). He held that the subsection was unnecessary, and ought to be omitted. If a man voted twice at any given election the sub-section had nothing whatever to do with that point. The first part of the section provided that no one should vote twice or ask for a ballot or voting-paper for the purpose of so voting, and any person who contravened that section would incur heavy penalties. It was proposed by this sub-section that heavy penalties should be incurred if a man who made an error in regard to the register of the constituency in which he voted, but that had nothing to do with his voting twice or attempting to vote twice. When they examined sub-section (3) in detail they saw that for trivial offences a man was to be deemed guilty of an illegal practice within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practice Act, 1883. He believed the Committee would agree that this sub-section in its entirety had better be left out. Under it it was proposed to make it an illegal practice if any person—

> "sends or causes to be sent a notice of his selection of a voting constituency to the clerk of the county council or town clerk of more than one constituency to take effect in the same year."

That did not give him two votes, and what they wanted to stop was plural voting. What would happen would be that the votes would be starred in two constituencies instead of one, but under this sub-section if a man by accident, or in any other way, sent notices of selection to the clerks of two counties he would be guilty of an illegal practice. The second part of the sub-section made it an offence if any person—

> "sends or causes to be sent a notice of his selection of a voting constituency without withdrawing any notice which is in operation in any other constituency."

The penalty for that offence would be a fine of £100 and disfranchisement for five years. Sub-sections (1) and (2) provided that a person registered as a Parliamentary elector in more than one constituency should vote only in one, and sub-section (3) merely provided machinery for keeping the register in a more correct condition than it would otherwise be. It also created two new crimes which had never before been dreamt of in this country, and provided for punishing guilty persons by heavy penalties. He hoped the Committee would agree that it was not necessary to add these two new crimes to the calendar.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 1, to leave out sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'if any person' stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said it had been argued that this sub-section dealt with what would be a trivial offence, but if a man by not withdrawing a selection or sending more than one selection was marked as a voter in several constituencies contrary to the intention of the Act it was a serious offence, because he would be able to evade the law much more easily. The moment a man got this distinguishing mark against his name he put all personation agents and others off the scent. Selection of a constituency was an essential part of the Bill, and if they were to have selection it was quite clear that they must have penalties to enforce the two things dealt with by sub-section (3).

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said there was some force in what the right hon. Gentleman said, but on the other hand he wished to point out that the penalties proposed to be enforced for what might only be a lapse of memory or want of knowledge were extremely heavy and hard.

MR. HARCOURT said the whole question was governed by the words—

> "Knowingly and with intent to evade the provisions of this Act."

SIR F. BANBURY said if the right hon. Gentleman could assure him that sub-section (3) was governed by those words he would not press his objection. But if those words governed the sub-section they should come in after and not before it.

MR. HARCOURT thought the object desired could be attained by accepting the Amendment of the hon. Member for Liverpool.

SIR F. BANBURY said he understood the right hon. Gentleman was willing to put in words, and therefore he would not continue to press his point.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said if the right hon. Gentleman would accept the words of a later Amendment standing in his name it seemed to him that the necessities of the case would be met. It was clear that the right hon. Gentleman only wanted the penalties inflicted where the offence had been committed knowingly and with intent to evade the provisions of the Act. The punishment which could be given for an illegal Act was only £100, not £200, as had been stated, and it was not possible to inflict imprisonment at all. Then the loss of civil rights, instead of being for seven years, which it would be under the Corrupt Practices Act, was only for five years; and that only applied to the constituency in which the illegal practice took place. It seemed to him, although he objected to this Bill altogether and to these notices of selection, that this particular sub-section was essential to the framework of the Bill.

MR. FELL said that after what had been said by the Minister in charge of the Bill he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 1, after the word 'person,' to insert the words, 'knowingly and with intent to evade the provisions of this Act.'"—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

**Viscount CASTLEREAGH** said that the Committee had the assurance of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that he would on Report consider the subject matter of the next Amendment standing in his name, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would inflict a severe penalty on a person who, without the sanction of the elector, sent or caused to be sent a notice of withdrawal of selection.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to insert the words, '(c) Sends or causes to be sent a notice of withdrawal of selection without the authority of the person who has the right to select.'"—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

**Mr. HARCOURT** said that he could not undertake to add another penalty for an offence which was already covered at common law. He thought that a special enactment, such as was suggested by the noble Lord, would produce the impression that the common law could not be applied.

**Viscount CASTLEREAGH** said that the question at issue was whether any person who sent in a notice of withdrawal of selection without the authority of the person who had the right to select should not be subjected to a penalty.

**Mr. HARCOURT** said that if any person withdrew a notice of selection without the authority of the voter who had the right to select, he would be guilty of a forgery.

**Mr. A. J. BALFOUR** said that they had had an interesting debate the other day in which the right hon. Member for Forest of Dean had described this as one of the ordinary parts of our electoral machinery. The right hon. Gentleman said that it had been deliberately and expressly laid down that persons were to sign the application themselves and that if their signature were placed on the notice by somebody else that was a forgery. The right hon. Gentleman had even put the case where the signature was not the imitated handwriting of the person supposed to be making the application. He did not think that that would amount to forgery at common law.

**Mr. HARCOURT** said that hon. Members were dealing with rather different cases. In one case they were dealing with a man who was acting for the advantage of a voter, and in the other case they were dealing with a man who was acting to the injury of the voter. At common law it was essential in order to constitute an offence that the man should be trying to inflict an injury on the person whose name he was forging.

**Lord R. CECIL** asked if the right hon. Gentleman was sure of that? He thought it was only where pecuniary damage had been done by the forger.

**Mr. HARCOURT** said it was difficult for a layman to give a decided opinion; but he had taken the advice of a very high legal authority, and he would refer the noble Lord to an authority which he would appreciate, although it was not binding on the Courts. In Stephens' *Digest*, an offence was defined as forgery where any document was altered by which any other person might be injured. That was an expression of opinion which had been generally acted upon at common law.

Question, put and negatived.

***Mr. FELL** moved an Amendment to sub-section (3) by which the penalty for an offence under the sub-section should be simply a fine of 40s. instead of five years deprivation of civil rights. The only benefit which a man could get by such a malpractice would be the power to vote in the constituency which he thought would do his friends most good. It was not an attempt to exercise his vote twice at an election. That was not a very serious offence.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out from the word 'be' to end of sub-section, and to insert the words, 'liable to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.'"—(*Mr. Fell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'an,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said the penalty which the hon. Member proposed would be a ridiculous one and he really could not accept it. This Bill dealt with a large property-owning class, and therefore to inflict a fine of 40s. would be no more a deterrent than it was in the case of a motor driver. Moreover, it certainly was not a fine which should be inflicted in a case of this kind.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 358; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 345.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(Tw'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs,Leigh.)
Brunner, R. Hn. Sir J.T.(Chesh
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H,
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Flynn,James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry

Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor) Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick(Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robt. John (Norfolk, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick,B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, SirA. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(SomersetE.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason Eugene Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Haliafx)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarthn
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestershire,N
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersfd.
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES — Mr. Fell and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) moved to amend Clause 1, by leaving out the words stating that an offender would be guilty of "an illegal practice within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883," in order to insert: "And an offence and shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and be incapable during a period of five years from the date of his conviction of being registered as an elector or voting at any election (whether it be a Parliamentary election or an election for a public office held for or within the county or borough in which the illegal practice has been committed)." The hon. Member explained that the object of his Amendment was very simple: that instead of referring to various Acts of Parliament the penalties should all be stated in this Bill. He had, in order to carry out his intention, looked up the provisions of all the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts. He had never known anybody who had anything to do with Acts of Parliament to justify this system of legislation by reference. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a previous occasion had frankly admitted that he had used the same arguments when in Opposition and proceeded to give the same answer as that which he had then received, namely, that it was done as a matter of convenience, and if these penalties were set out in the Bill it would lead to a great deal of discussion and innumerable Amendments. If it was true that Parliament did not know what it had done when it legislated in this way then the system ought to come to an end. In a case with which they were sadly familiar at the present time, the West Riding case, Mr. Justice Farwell said that in Acts of Parliament there were frequently ambiguous expressions, and the learned Judge almost suggested that sometimes those ambiguities were purposely allowed to remain in Acts by this House. If that was so it was a scandalous state of things. If that were true there could be no harm, instead of legislating by reference, in taking this opportunity to add the Amendment, which he had placed upon the Paper, to the Bill. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 9, to leave out from the word 'of,' to end of clause, and to insert the words, 'an offence, and shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, and be incapable during a period of five years from the date of his conviction of being registered as an elector or voting at any election (whether it be a Parliamentary election or an election for a public office) held for or within the county or borough in which the illegal practice has been committed.' "—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the second word 'of,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

MR. HARCOURT said that the arguments of the hon. Member as to the undesirable character of legislation by reference to other Acts were very familiar to the Leaders of the Unionist Party. He did not think that the House or Ministers would ever part now with a habit which they had by compulsion adopted of legislating as far as they could by reference and in order to save themselves from the plethora of eloquence to which they were often exposed on Amendments which were almost frivolous in their character. ["Oh, oh."] It was not necessary to argue the question of legislation by reference, but if the hon. Member wanted a defence of the method, he must apply to his Leader sitting below him. It was, however, a moderately convenient method, and the Government hoped by its means to attain the result at which they aimed.

LORD R. CECIL said the defence of the Minister in charge of the Bill amounted to the statement that a practice had now grown up of legislating by reference which could not be ignored. That argument only wanted to be carried a little further and it would be said that this was a precedent which could not be departed from. The second argument of the right hon. Gentleman was that it had already been done by the Leader of the Opposition. If it had been done, he (Lord R. Cecil) had no knowledge of it personally, and he could only regret it. He trusted the present democratic House of Commons would free the Legislature from that reproach. All it meant was this: that Ministers got up and said, "If we cannot legislate in this way we cannot legislate at all." In other words, their plea was that the House of Commons was no longer capable of doing what it was constituted to do. If that was so, let them have a new House of Commons; let them not put upon the Statute Book a mass of ill-considered statutes. He ventured to appeal once again to hon. Members, many of whom he knew were perfectly in agreement with him upon this question, to put into Bills where they could the enacting words. They might not be able to do it in all cases, but at all events let them in this case create a precedent and insert the enacting words of this Amendment, instead of referring to previous statutes. It was doubly necessary in a matter of criminal law that persons should know the penalties that might be incurred instead of their having to search through the Statute Book.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said there were really two points before the Committee. Upon one he was in general agreement with his hon. friend. Upon the other and more general question he thought there was a very large assumption of what a longer Parliamentary experience would show to be an impracticable ideal. In the present case he should think there could be no difficulty in introducing the words of his hon. friend. There could only be one opinion upon the advantage of not legislating by reference if it could be avoided, and there were arguments of strength for introducing words and thus making quite clear what were the penalties. This was a case where it was very desirable that the actual words should be introduced. If the result of introducing those words would be to create a protracted debate he should think the course adopted by the Government might be justified. But was it alleged that the introduction of the words of his hon. friend would lead to a great flow of eloquence or that progress would be delayed by adopting the suggestion? If that was not alleged this was one of the cases in which everything pointed in the direction of legislating directly by placing the penalties in the Bill rather than indirectly by referring to previous statutes. But whilst urging the Government to accept this Amendment he did not think it possible in the modern House of Commons, however constituted, for legislation by reference to be wholly evaded. His two hon. and learned friends approached this question without a very long Parliamentary experience behind them. Both were eminent lawyers and both saw the inconvenience of this modern practice of legislating by reference, but he was quite certain that it could not be avoided. He was absolutely convinced from his own experience that every Government would be drawn into this method, objectionable as it was. It was not convenient to lawyers, but it was quite impossible that it should be avoided. Did anyone deny—he certainly never had denied—that if they had an assembly of 670 Members, all qualified to speak, and many of them very anxious to speak, debates in this House must be prolonged. He had never denied that the prolongation might be such that each Government might be driven in turn to adopt closure by compartment, which, though a disastrous method, was in some cases absolutely essential. If those were the straits to which they had been driven already by the inevitable development of our Parliamentary institutions, then he said they could not afford to give up any device such as that by legislation by reference. He was himself responsible for much legislation by reference, and now that he was in opposition he was not going to repudiate views which he honestly held then and still held. Therefore on the question of the broad necessity of using this method of legislation by reference he did not think the Government were open to attack. He did not think the Government, however, were very wise in this particular case, because they were dealing with a penalty to which large numbers of voters in the country might render themselves liable, and there was a plain advantage, not from the lawyer's point of view in this case, but from the point of view of the public, in placing on the face of the statute the precise penalty which it was meant to inflict. As he was quite unable to see how proceedings on this Bill would be prolonged by stating in plain language how it was intended to punish and what punishment was to be given, he did press upon the Government that without abandoning the general standpoint of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill they might make a concession in the case of this Amendment.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD rose to speak.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 356; Noes, 96. (Division List No. 346.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexh'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, RtHn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Corbett CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox,Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)

Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martn(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col.Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk Bghs.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady J.
O'Kelly, Jas (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton underLyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John

Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mpt.
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams Osmond (Merioneth
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingham
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon, Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone. W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the second word 'of,' in line 9, stand part of the clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 359; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 347.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry

Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm's't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W (Tow'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'std')
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan

Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Heref'd, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Kier (Merthyr T'dv'l
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner

Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Moltono, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)

Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc's)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'ry Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'th'mpt'n)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price,C.E.(Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'h
Richards,T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manch'ster
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred (Merth'r
Thompson,J.W.H. (Somers't,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (S'th'mpton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugune (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'th'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'dersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(City,Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barire, H. T. (Londonderry,N.
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Wor.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings,Rt.Hn.J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd
Harrison-Boardley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, J. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A. R.
Lond,Col. Charles W.(Evesh'm
Lond,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttleton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Roberts,S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)

Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertf'd, East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J.G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Rawlinson and Lord Robert Cecil.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN claimed "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 361; Noes, 96. (Division List No. 348.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. (W.C.B.)(H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romf'd)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J.T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grins'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr T'dvil
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel. Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John

Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W )
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. Notts, (Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Ethelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mpt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddr'sf.)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.HnA.J.(CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E
Chamberlain,RtHn.A.J.(Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings,Rt. Hn. J. (Birminghm
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Hennry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Dension (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn.Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton,Hon. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood, and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 362; Noes, 93. (Division List No. 349.)

## AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,HnW.C.B.(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rH'mlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, Rt.Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Corbett, C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M.Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William

Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas, (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay. (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parver, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'th'mpton
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hn. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)

Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York., E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmar'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcest'rsh, N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Hud'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kennaway, Rt Hon Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lond, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darling'n)
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause 2:—

MR. COURTHOPE said he wished to move the omission of all the words in sub-section 1, after the word "vote" on line 16, so as to make the sub-section apply to all voters. He did so for this principal reason, that during the last hour or two before the close of the poll in a contested election there was almost invariably a great rush of voters, and frequently confusion resulted. He thought it would be much better if the question contained in the schedule of the Bill should be asked of all voters instead of only those who had selected to vote in that constituency. It appeared to him that a person who had failed to select, and whose name was on the register might easily vote under this section in more than one constituency without having any question asked him at all.

*The CHAIRMAN ruled that the Amendment was out of order, as if carried it would contravene the provisions of Clause 1.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN inquired if the Chairman had in his mind that a promise was given by the Minister in charge of the Bill that the schedule should be altered.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.): The right hon. Gentleman has denied it.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the promise was that the schedule should be altered and put in an entirely different form.

*The CHAIRMAN said he could not take into account promises which were said to have been made in regard to a matter which could have only a subsequent effect upon the Bill.

Mr. COURTHOPE asked the Chairman if he had in his mind the case of an elector who had failed to select.

*The CHAIRMAN said he had explained very carefully why the hon. Member was out of order, and that was the only thing he had in his mind and the only thing he ought to have in his mind.

Mr. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said that after what had been said it would require very few words from him to place before the Committee two Amendments which he desired to move. The first was in line 15, to leave out the word "unless" and insert "if." He had another Amendment on the Paper in the next line to leave out "negative" and insert "affirmative." He thought the clause thus altered would read better.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 15, to leave out the word 'unless,' and to insert the word 'if.'"—(*Mr. Forster.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'unless' stand part of the clause."

Mr. ASQUITH accepted this Amendment on behalf of the Government, as he thought it would be a distinct improvement. He also thought that the substitution of the word "affirmative" for "negative" was desirable.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, to leave out the word 'negative,' and insert the word 'affirmative.'"—(*Mr. Forster.*)

Agreed to.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) said the Amendment which he had to move provided for the case where a voter had sent in a notice of selection but it had not reached the town clerk or the clerk to the county council, with the result that the proper mark did not appear opposite to his name. His point was that if the voter asserted that he had sent a notice of selection to the town clerk, notwithstanding the fact that it had not reached the town clerk, he should be allowed to vote. Otherwise although an elector had done everything that the statute required him to do he would be disfranchised. He therefore desired after the word "vote" in line 16, to insert "unless he states to the presiding officer that he has sent a notice in accordance with the provisions of the first section of this Act." In many cases the notice would certainly go astray, and if the voter asserted that he had sent this notice he ought to be allowed to vote.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'vote,' to insert the words 'unless he states to the presiding officer that he has sent a notice in accordance with the provisions of the first section of this Act.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Mr. ASQUITH said he could not accept this Amendment. In the first place, if it was introduced at all it was out of place in the present section; it should have been introduced into the first section. The question put to the elector had nothing to do with the qualification. In the second place, such a scheme would be impossible to work and would lead to enormous confusion, because it meant that the presiding officer was not to be bound by what appeared on the register, but by an unsupported statement made by the voter. He was quite unable to accept such a proposal.

**Lord R. CECIL** said he should certainly vote for the Amendment if it was pressed to a division, although after the Amendment which had just been accepted this proposal became less important.

**Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN** supported the Amendment, and pointed out the hardship which would be entailed if a voter who had taken all the necessary steps was debarred from voting. Supposing a man resided in Northumberland and had a vote in one of the southern counties; he could not see the register in the southern county, and it appeared to be contemplated that in the event of an election, he, knowing that he had made a selection, should travel from North to South and when he reached the constituency, although he had received an acknowledgment, he might find that through the negligence or misconduct of the clerk or of the person printing the register, the proper mark had not been attached to his name. That was the point of his right hon. friend's Amendment, and it had not been dealt with by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at all.

**Mr. ASQUITH** said the argument of the right hon. Gentleman did not affect the question at all. It was quite true that an occurrence of this kind might happen, but the voter would have right of action against the clerk who was negligent or malicious. It was desirable that the presiding officer should be able to say "Here is the register, and I cannot go behind it."

**Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD** hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would assent to the Amendment, because very great hardship would be inflicted if a voter found that owing to some clerical error or mistake it was impossible for him to vote.

**Mr. DALZIEL** (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said it was very interesting to see the anxiety of hon. Members opposite that nobody should be left off the register. Their enthusiasm in regard to the votes of the poorer classes was still more remarkable. If a man were able to go in to a polling booth and upon his mere statement that he had sent a letter be allowed to vote, it would open the door to all kinds of fraud and make the Bill practically useless. He saw no reason whatever for the Amendment.

**Sir E. CARSON** did not think that the hon. Member had followed the discussions on the Bill. This was not a case of disfranchising a man who had a single vote, but of disfranchising a man who had two or three votes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the presiding officer should be bound by the register, but that was not the right hon. Gentleman's Bill, because under it the register was not conclusive, as the presiding officer had to put a question to the voter. The real difficulty of this Bill was that the register was not going to be conclusive. The point of the Opposition all along had been that once a man was on the register he ought to be able to vote, but in consequence of the clumsy machinery of the Government, thousands of electors would be disfranchised. He should certainly ask the Committee to divide on this Amendment.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 321. (Division List No. 350.)

## AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. (A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry

Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,G'v'n)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlingt'n)
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt.Hon C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith,Rt.Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W, P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn.W.C.B. (Hex'm)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams (D'v'np rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt. Hn.Sir J.T.(Ches.)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras W.
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,E.Grnst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Carig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E.Martin(Wals'l)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jaceby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.

Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Moteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E)
Thoams, David Alfred (M'rth'r)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somers't, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. W.
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (S'thampton)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall), in moving to insert the following proviso:—" Provided always that the presiding officer shall not give into custody any person charged with personation unless such person has actually voted," said the Committee would be aware that under the Parliamentary Voters Registration Act of 1843 it was the duty of the returning officer to give into custody any person charged with personation, and that by Section 63 of the Ballot Act to ask for a voting paper was to be deemed to be equivalent to voting. Therefore, unless some Amendment similar to that which he now proposed was carried the result would be that any plural voter would be liable to this penalty. The Bill was drastic enough in all conscience, but he and those who sat with him thought this penalty was far too severe. They held that a voter in such a case ought not to be given into custody unless he had actually voted. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be of opinion that it was too severe a thing to give a man into custody simply because he had asked for a voting paper. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 21, at end, to insert the words 'Provided always that the presiding officer shall not give into custody any person charged with personation unless such person has actually voted.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. ASQUITH said he was under the impression that his right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works had already promised to provide for this case. But whether that was so or not he agreed with the hon. Gentleman that it ought to be provided for. These words, however, were a little too wide. He understood the sole object of the hon. Gentleman was to prevent the person being given into custody for personation under this Act.

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Yes.

Mr. ASQUITH: Then his words must be limited by the insertion of the words "under this Act." In that form, subject to what his right hon. friend proposed to do, he would accept the Amendment.

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS: Then, Mr. Emmott, I will move it in that form.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment—

> "After the word 'personation' to insert the words 'under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)—

Question proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there added."

Mr. STANLEY WILSON asked whether the Amendment would cover the following case. A plural voter entered a polling booth and asked for a ballot paper, after which the personating agent requested the presiding officer to put the question in the schedule. Immediately the man answered the question in the affirmative that he was a plural voter he at once committed an offence under the Act. There would be many plural voters who would never perhaps have heard of this Bill. Would this Amendment cover the case he had referred to?

Mr. ASQUITH: Yes.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said his object in moving to leave out the words "Section 81 of" at the beginning of sub-section (2) was merely to call attention to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman would have to amend this clause in some drastic manner, or else it would be absolute nonsense in working. The Parliamentary Voters Registration Act, 1843, only extended to England and Wales, and the enactments amending the same would neither make that Act nor any part of it apply either to Scotland or to Ireland.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 2, line 22, to leave out the words, "Section eighty-one of.'"—(*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Sir W. ROBSON said Section 81 of the Parliamentary Voters' Registration Act was to be applied to this Bill, and would be given the whole scope of this Bill. The mere fact that Section 81 of the Parliamentary Voters' Registration Act did not apply to Ireland did not affect the matter here, so long as they incorporated it with the Bill and afterwards made the Bill apply to Ireland

Sir F. BANBURY asked whether the hon. Gentleman was correct in saying that it did not apply to Ireland or Scotland, because, if so, he should think a good many Members on the Opposition side would go to reside in one of those countries.

LORD R. CECIL said it did not appear to him that the effect of the clause would be such as the Solicitor-General had described. The Act of 1843 was not to be read into this Bill but the question raised here was to be read into the Act mentioned.

SIR E. CARSON said if it were merely that the Act did not apply to Ireland or Scotland he would agree with the Solicitor-General that they might incorporate a section of it applicable to the three countries, but when the section incorporated only made provision for England and Wales, by the very incorporation they accepted the limitation in the section itself. How, then, could the Solicitor-General argue in that case that the section would be applicable to an Act which was going to apply to the three countries? The plain construction would be that this provision only applied when the election was being carried on in England or Wales.

SIR W. ROBSON said that as it was suggested there might be some ambiguity about the matter the Government would reconsider the point.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet) moved an Amendment, to provide that a voter must "knowingly" give a false answer in order to be guilty of an illegal practice within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883. It might be said that the word "knowingly" was not required, as knowledge was implied by the word "false." But the latter term had a colloquial meaning, and it might be held to have such meaning here. The word "knowingly" had been inserted in the first sub-section of Clause 1, and by an Amendment carried this afternoon the word had been inserted in the third sub-section of Clause 1. Therefore, if "knowingly" were not inserted in Clause, 2 it would very naturally lead to the impression that it had been designedly and for some special purpose omitted. Recent decisions in the law courts had turned upon the omission of qualifying words in one part of an Act, particularly where qualifying words had appeared in another part of the Act.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 26, after the word 'voter,' to insert the word 'knowingly.'"—(*Mr. H. H Marks.*)

Question proposed—"That the word 'knowingly' be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said the Government had powdered this Bill with the word "knowingly," and he had no objection tor another shake of the bottle, so that this Amendment might be included; but he would also wish to accept the succeeding Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Ecclesall Division of Sheffield which contained words constantly associated with the word "knowingly," namely, "and with intention to evade the provisions of this Act."

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS said the would move to add to the Amendment the words "and with intention to evade the provisions of this Act."

Amendment, to the proposed Amendment—

"To add the words 'and with intention to evade the provisions of this Act.'"

Agreed to.

Amendment as amended, agreed to.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN moved to insert the following sub-section: "If any person attempts to prevent a registered elector from voting by threats of proceedings under this Act, without having good reason to believe that the voter is disqualified by the provisions of the Act, he shall be guilty of an illegal practice within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883." He said that he feared an attempt would be made by unscrupulous persons to deter men who were really entitled to vote from voting, under threat of the very heavy penalties imposed by this Bill. There were the admitted cases of men who had more than one qualification, and whose names by an oversight had been left on a list in a constituency in which they had ceased to be qualified. What was to prevent an unscrupulous Party agent, who saw a voter who had just moved into the constituency and was going to the poll, from drawing a bow at a venture, and saying, "You are registered in more than one constituency, and as you have made no selection you are not entitled to vote. I have warned you, and if you vote you will be doing it knowingly and with intention to evade the provisions of this statute, the penalty for which is two years hard labour and seven years deprivation of all civil rights?" It might be argued that a good and strong returning officer would not allow that kind of bullying to take place within the polling booth, but there were returning officers of all sorts—many of them not strong men, many, perhaps, not with any great knowledge of election practice, and he thought there would be a real danger of voters actually entitled to a vote being bluffed out of their right to exercise it. But it was on the eve of an election that an agent or canvasser might find that a number of persons who were probably plural voters were hostile to his side, and he might determine to stop their voting. He might go round and say, "You are probably on the register in the place you have removed from. You vote at your peril—if you vote we will prosecute you." It was impossible for them to find out whether they were on the register or not. In that way Party agents might succeed in striking off votes which might have been given against them. The only doubt he had in his mind was whether the penalty he had included was sufficient for the offence, having regard to what the Government considered requisite in other cases. To prevent a man who was entitled to vote from voting was a much graver offence than the one which had been created under this Bill. Under the section which he proposed to import the penalty was £100 fine. If the right hon. Gentleman would put in a heavier penalty he would support him. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name on the Paper.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 29, at end, to insert the words, '(3) If any person attempts to prevent a registered elector from voting by threats of proceedings under this Act, without having good reason to believe that the voter is disqualified by the provisions of the Act, he shall be guilty of an illegal practice within the meaning of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1883.'"—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. HARCOURT said he agreed with the general view taken by the right hon. Gentleman, and certainly an agent who did a trick like that deserved punishment. But the case was already covered by Section 2 of the Corrupt Practices Act, which provided punishment for restraining voters from voting by fraudulent devices or contrivances and using undue influence. Those were offences punishable by the same penalties which the right hon. Gentleman had suggested. He was under the impression that the section he had quoted dealt with the right hon. Gentleman's case, but if it was thought necessary to take legal opinion upon it he would do so.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he accepted the right hon. Gentleman's statement of the law entirely, but he was not quite certain that the effect of this section would be the same as the section he proposed in his Amendment. If a vote was challenged he thought the challenger should be bound to show that the voter had voted, and it should not rest with somebody else to show that the challenge was fraudulent. He desired to put the onus of proof upon the man who challenged the vote. If the Solicitor-General would say that that was the effect of the section which the right hon. Gentleman had quoted he was satisfied. If it was not he appealed to the Government to take that line. Surely it was not unreasonable, where some one was trying to prevent a man from exercising a right he was entitled to exercise, to insist that he should show that he had good reasons for challenging the vote.

SIR W. ROBSON said he did not think the Amendment would carry out the purpose the right hon. Gentleman had in view. It was against the principle of our law to put the onus of proof upon a defendant.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the Amendment was intended to prevent people from attempting to stop from voting those who were legitimately entitled to vote at the election. It was only the second part of the sub-section that referred to the prevention of the free exercise of the franchise and the word "attempts" or "threats" did not apply to that part of the section at all. Therefore it was clear that if this Bill was to become law there ought to be some protection against circulars being sent out wholesale on the night before the election pointing out that the Act contained very serious penalties affecting plural voters. It would be admitted that there ought to be some provision to prevent that kind of thing being done, and to prevent electors being interfered with on the eve of the poll. So far as the Amendment made it an offence to send out such a communication as he had described it would only be carrying out the express desires of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill if the Committee accepted it. He thought they ought to have some further assurance that this very grave difficulty would be adequately met.

**MR. A. J. BALFOUR** said if on the day before the poll an agent suggested to working men electors who had migrated from another district that if they voted they might unconsciously break the law, that would be a fair warning, and it could not be proved that it was intimidation or corruption. He respectfully suggested that the Government should make the Committee fully acquainted with the facts before rashly asserting that a personation agent in the polling booth would not act in the way his right hon. friend had indicated. It might be said that it was intimidation, but it might also be said that the agent or canvasser who gave a voter a warning was only doing his best to see that the law was carried out. The voter taken by surprise would say, "It is quite true; I do not know whether I have a vote in the place I left last year." He did not see how they could get over that. If any way of avoiding that difficulty could be found it ought to be put in the Bill. It was not intimidation or corruption. It was not anything which was touched in any Act of Parliament which had been passed, or any Act which they could pass. It was a difficulty, in his opinion, inherent in the Bill. He could not see any adequate remedy.

**MR. HARCOURT** said the Leader of the Opposition had introduced apparently a new question. He reminded the right hon. Gentleman that the real grievance of the working man who moved from one constituency to another was that he was often deprived of his vote anywhere. If the right hon. Gentleman, while he was in office, had done anything to assist in removing that grievance, something might be said for his solicitude for the working man voter now. He thought there would be very few cases in which the difficulty to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred would arise, and possibly it would never arise at all.

**MR. A. J. BALFOUR** said the question of the qualification of voters had nothing to do with this Bill. He did not see why the right hon. Gentleman should introduce that topic in attempting to deal with a complaint raised by his own friends.

**MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON** (Durham, Barnard Castle) sincerely hoped that this Amendment would not be disregarded. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill seemed to him to treat very lightly the case of the working man plural voter. It was, however, quite a common thing for a working man to be a plural voter. A voter in one constituency removed very often into an adjoining constituency in the month of June, and was most probably left on the old list. The overseer was aware that the voter was entitled to carry his county council vote with him, and therefore put him down in Division 1 of the list. Unless the opposing agent noticed this and took steps to have only the county council vote retained he remained on Division 1 and became a Parliamentary voter for two constituencies. Moreover, it would be to the interest of the opposing agent to leave this man on the register. Hitherto it had been his interest to have him taken off. This was a genuine case and was very prevalent in industrial or mining counties, where the voter from the exigencies of his employment might have to remove very frequently. He hoped some change would be made in the Bill which would prevent the possibility of a not too scrupulous agent scaring a voter from exercising the franchise.

Mr. HARCOURT said he did not oppose the Amendment because he disagreed with its object, but because he believed the point was dealt with under the present law. He agreed that it was important to prevent agents from intimidating or alarming voters on the night before the poll. If he was not absolutely satisfied that the present law covered it, he would see that words were inserted to meet the point.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that the right hon. Gentleman had stated that if any gap existed in the situation he would make that gap good; but the right hon. Gentleman could not resist the temptation to have a fling at the Leader of the Opposition, and so he belittled the number of people who were liable to be subject to that intimidation against which the Amendment was directed. He hoped after what had been said by the hon. Member for the Barnard Castle Division, following on speeches delivered from other quarters, the right hon. Gentleman would recognise that there was a very large class for whom this Bill must provide, otherwise a great injustice would be done to them. Of course, the Bill would throw on agents and party organisations a much more complicated task than they had hitherto had; but they could not rely on any party organisation to take up the work which only the Government could do completely. In his own constituency he ventured to say that the Liberal Party made practically no appearance in the registration courts, and took no steps to induce a person to qualify himself to be put on the register. The agent did not, as a rule, challenge any man on the register, because the chances were that four out of five of them would vote for his side. What was the good, therefore, of relying on the party agent to keep the register pure, or to remove from the register a man who had gone into a neighbouring constituency. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would meet the case covered by the Amendment, and the case which would be put later on by the Leader of the Opposition.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said he quite concurred with the hon. Member for the Barnard Castle Division as to the frequency of the cases in which working men were found to be plural voters, because there were large numbers of cases where working men from the shipyards on the Clyde were constantly moving across to Belfast and then returning, and thus being placed on the register in two constituencies. He suggested that the method adopted to avoid that danger should be made as simple as possible, and he considered that the end would be attained if it was made compulsory on the parties to an election to print the necessary warning against the offence of voting in two constituencies on the unofficial election cards sent out to all voters.

Sir FREDERICK BARBURY thought the suggestion made by the hon. and gallant Member might be given effect to in the schedule, as it was a perfectly good one.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that his right hon. friend the Member for East Worcestershire, who had left the House, had told him that he was satisfied with the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman, and had asked him to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:—

Captain CRAIG said he wished to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for South Antrim to omit from the second and third lines of Clause 3, the words "and as respects Ireland under Section 3 of the Parliamentary Registration (Ireland) Act, 1885."

Mr. HARCOURT said he could not possibly accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the words, 'And as respects Ireland under Section 3 of the Parliamentary Registration (Ireland) Act, 1885'"—

Amendment negatived.

MR. COURTHOPE said he wished to move the Amendment standing in his name, which, with all due deference, he thought, was not controversial, viz., to leave out from line 39 the words "selecting any constituency as his voting constituency," and insert "whose name appears on the register of more than one constituency."

MR. HARCOURT said, on a point of order, that the point raised by the hon. Gentleman's Amendment had been decided long ago.

MR. COURTHOPE said that he had no recollection of that.

THE CHAIRMAN said it had already been decided that a person selecting any constituency as his voting constituency was to be marked.

MR. RAWLINSON said he did not remember the point ever having been raised as to whether some other distinctive mark might not be made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he had understood from the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that a person could select his constituency in any way he liked; that was to say, he might send in a sheet of paper, upon which he wrote that he desired, say, to vote at Bristol, and that no question would be raised as to the validity of that selection because the form of selection was not prescribed by the Order in Council. As he read this clause, however, the Order in Council would be paramount and that would over-rule the understanding which had been arrived at with the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HARCOURT said he had undertaken that the Order in Council should prescribe a form.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: But it is optional?

MR. HARCOURT: Oh, yes it is quite optional.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: But it is not optional under this clause. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will make it right later on?

MR. HARCOURT: I will see that it is so. I am responsible for that sort of thing.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman is responsible for the first Order in Council, but another Minister may alter it.

MR. HARCOURT: There is not a word in the Bill which would make the use of the form mandatory.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith) complained that they had not before them the scheme which was to be included in the Order in Council. Time after time the right hon. Gentleman had taken refuge in the fact that these matters would be alluded to in the Order in Council and had stated that under the Order in Council he would make certain arrangements under which the voter might select any place he chose in which to vote, but it passed the wit of man to see how that could be done. In the course of the discussion they had seen how closely the time was packed from the 15th of July till the 12th of October, and he wished to have an explanation of some of the difficulties which would arise under this Bill. Was the right hon. Gentleman going to have a supplementary list? How could he alter the list when once it had been signed and printed and had become the register coming into effect on the 1st of September? How was the right hon. Gentleman going to deal with the case of a man who had selected a particular vote and that vote had been taken away from him? Throughout the debates on the Bill, those who were interested in registration matters had been hampered very much by not knowing the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman. They had had many explanations which were extremely ingenious, but the main difficulty of altering the register after it had been signed seemed to him to be insuperable. The right hon. Gentleman might, it was true, obtain an Order in Council to have a supplementary register, but there were difficulties in the way. It was a question whether the revising barrister would not have to sit again, and he thought that if these selection forms had had to come before the revising barrister as other claims had to come, it would have simplified the procedure of the Bill. If that procedure had been adopted then the register could have been dealt with once for all. He could not understand how this double arrangement by which two persons became responsible for the register was to work, and he could not help thinking that it would very much simplify their dealings with the Bill if the right hon. Gentleman would explain in the slightest degree what he meant to do by his Order in council. He did not know whether the case had been mentioned of two applications being made for one qualification. He had known cases of that sort. How was the clerk to deal with a question of that kind? Was he to decide whether the first or the second man was to be on the register, or was he to refer the question to the revising barrister, or to any other Court? All these points might seem very trivial to those who had not been through registration work, but they would become very real difficulties unless they were dealt with properly by the Order in Council. He very much regretted that the real machinery of the Bill had not been discussed at all during the Committee stage. The right hon. Gentleman had given a splendid description of the way in which he intended to arrange the lobby list, when he suggested the new mode of dividing. He had given a perfect picture of everything that would take place, and Members had hoped that some such descriptive account would be given of what would happen to a man under this Bill. But they had had nothing of the kind, although from time to time they had dragged out certain admissions. But there were a number of perilous questions about which they were still in the dark.

*Sir William Bull.*

Mr. HARCOURT said he had learned so much as he had been able to learn of Parliamentary procedure by sitting under the Gallery and observing the practice of the right hon. Gentleman who at present led the Opposition. He had listened with admiration to the refusals which that right hon. Gentleman had given to produce an Order in Council until a Bill had become an Act of Parliament, and until he knew the shape it would finally assume. That was the procedure which the right hon. Gentleman followed in the case of the Licensing Bill, the complete methods for the carrying out of which were put in an Order in Council. The right hon. Gentleman also followed that procedure in regard to the Local Government Bill. He thought that those were very good precedents to follow, and following them he could not produce the details of the Order in Council at the present stage. The hon. Member wished to know how alterations in the printed list could be made. Surely an hon. Member who was so well acquainted with registration law must have it in his mind that such alterations were made under the existing law in the case of an appeal in regard to both admission to the list and refusal to admit. There would be no difficulty in adding a very simple indication in the rare cases in which it was necessary.

Mr. WALTER LONG said that the cases which the right hon. Gentleman had cited, namely, those of the Licensing Act and the Local Government Act, were not exactly parallel with this case. For the first time the right hon. Gentleman was saying to the electors, "You shall only have one vote, no matter how many qualifications you have; you shall select one vote, and if you exercise more than one vote you shall go to prison." All that was asked for was a description of the methods and the machinery which were going to be used in order to carry this out. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman had abundant precedent for not declaring the exact form which the Order in Council would take, but they ought to have at that stage some more indication of how this very complicated machinery was going to work. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman had had even from his own followers any support of the attitude he was now taking up, but, on the other hand, he had listened to many criticisms from both sides of the House in regard to it. The right hon. Gentleman ought to indicate what he proposed to do. He must take some further step. If this Bill passed, it was impossible to leave things as they were. They could not alter the law and leave the responsibility upon the three sets of officers he had mentioned. For the first time in this country the possession and exercise of a vote was not a great civic privilege. It meant a grave risk of being sent to prison, not because a man voted who had no right to do so, but because having two votes he had not decided beforehand which he was going to give. If the Government were going to crib, cabin, and confine the privileges of a citizen in this way, they could only do so by promising to place the control in the hands of a Government official. He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman had not been able to give the hon. Member for Hammersmith some assurance on that point. The Government would find that they were enacting under this Bill, if they left it where it was, a law which would make the exercise of the privilege of voting not only much more difficult than it was at present, but a privilege attended by so many disadvantages that they would be regarded by the people as more than counterbalancing the advantages of the franchise.

*Mr. FELL said the Order in Council was to prescribe the manner in which the name of a person selecting any constituency as his voting constituency was to be marked on the register. He did not think if the name was simply to be starred that such an elaborate provision as an Order in Council was required. It looked to him as if some other particulars were to be placed on the register in addition to the starring. But what those conditions were it was impossible to say till they saw the Order in Council. He was convinced himself that money spent on careful preparation of the register in the first instance would save a larger expenditure afterwards. If the register was made up by the proper officer at the time it would in all probability save its being made up three times over and £1 spent on the preparation of the register would save £3 afterwards.

Mr. H. H. MARKS suggested that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill could facilitate proceedings at this stage without much inconvenience to himself and with great convenience to the Committee if he could sketch in a few sentences how the difficulties raised were to be dealt with in the Order in Council. It was a pity that the want of this information should be allowed to stand in the way of further progress being made with the Bill.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD pointed out that the only mark contemplated in the clause was a mark upon the register of the constituency the voter had selected. He suggested that a mark should also be put upon the register upon which the voter had not selected to vote.

The CHAIRMAN said that point had already been decided.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that the only mark contemplated in Clause 3 was a mark on the register of the constituency selected. That would have the effect that for the first time in practice the register would not be conclusive of the voters entitled to vote. Every one knew that at the time of an election many people came up and said, "Am I entitled to vote," and the register was referred to, and if the name appeared in the register without a mark they were told "Yes."

The CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was trying to transgress his ruling.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he was only desirous of pointing out that now for the first time a register marked in this way would not be conclusive of the number of people entitled to vote.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 299; Noes, 60. (Division List No. 351.)

## AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexhm)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire JosephPeter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'rH'mlets,S.Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N)
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
McCrae, George
McKean, John
McKenna, Reginald
McKillop, W.
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil Willian
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.

Parker, James Halifax
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. W. (Monm'th.)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, SirA. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampt'n)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn (Carmarth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(Huddersfd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.SirAlexF.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings,Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
McCalmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darl'gton)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Mr. H. H. Marks.

Clause 4:—

THE CHAIRMAN said all the Amendments on the Paper to Clause 4 were out of order.

Motion, made and Question proposed, "That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

MR. FELL said there were certain constituencies in which some exceptions might be made, such, for instance, as the City of London, which was the centre of the commercial world. Practically the whole of those who had votes in the City resided out of it, the business demands upon the space there being so great that land was not available for residential purposes, and it would be ridiculous if they attempted to force people who had offices in the City to reside there.

THE CHAIRMAN said he could not see how the hon. Member's remarks had anything to do with the question that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

MR. FELL said he was trying to discuss the differences between this exceptional constituency and others.

THE CHAIRMAN said there were 670 constituencies, and it would certainly not be in order to discuss all their circumstances. If the position of the City of London was to be raised it should have been on Clause 1.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said it seemed to him that before they passed Clause 4 they should have some explanation from the hon. right Gentleman in charge of the Bill as to the necessity of the clause. It had been pointed out continuously that the Bill had been framed on the principle of legislation by reference. He felt sure, therefore, that the word "constituency" must have been already defined in previous Bills dealing with the same subject. Therefore, this clause was superfluous and should left out.

SIR W. ROBSON said it was a somewhat curious circumstance that the word "constituency" had not been defined in previous legislation of this character. In Registration and Electorate Acts the words used were—

> "The county or borough returning a Member for Parliament."

Therefore it was essential that the word should be defined.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said after the remarks of the hon. and learned Gentleman he saw no reason why the old arrangement should not be stuck to, and therefore thought this clause was more superfluous than ever.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 309; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 352.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hexh'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilarie Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedf'rdshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn Sir J. T. (Chesh.)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey

Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc')
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir.D Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.

Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
McCrae, George
McKenna, Reginald
McKillop, W.
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton

Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthn)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W. R.)

Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn Sir Alex. F
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt Hn. J. (Birm'gh'm)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
McCalmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E (Liverp'l, Walton)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Bull and Mr. Fell.

On Clause 5:—

*MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs) moved an Amendment to leave out all the words of the first sub-section after "Act." He said the Amendment was a friendly one, prompted by a desire to make the Bill work so smoothly that it would be a great success. The necessity for the Amendment was due to the fact that the register in Scotland operated for a different period from the English register. The Scottish register came into operation on 1st November, and ended on 31st October and in that respect, as in a good many other respects, was a great deal better than the English register because it came into operation two months earlier. According to the clause—

> "The Secretary for Scotland may issue instructions for any purpose for which an Order in Council may be made under this Act, and may also issue any instructions which are rendered necessary by the fact that the currency of the Parliamentary register in Scotland does not coincide with the calendar year, including instructions for prescribing some special manner in which the name of a person is to be marked on the register whose notice of selection does not take effect till the *first day of January* succeeding the day on which the register comes into force, or whose notice of selection ceases to operate on the said first day of January."

It seemed to him that this would cause a great deal of complication in connection with the Scottish register, and it was a complication which, he thought, could be avoided. During the first year or two under the new system he expected that there would be a good deal of change of selection. He wished to point out how the Bill would work in regard to Scotland. If a man happened to have qualification in the burgh of Dumfries, and also in the county—two separate constituencies—on the roll which came into force on 1st November, 1907, he would be entitled to vote in both constituencies until 31st December, 1907, though previous to 1st September he had selected to vote in the burgh. On the burgh register he would be marked in some special way, with, for instance, the letter S, which meant during the calendar year 1908. But the elector found that he wished to transfer his selection for the following year, 1909, to the county, and now it was that all the complication came in. His name appeared on the new burgh register with some other mark than the simple S—some such mark as S.N.D., indicating that during November and December he desired to vote in the burgh. Then in the county register he must be marked S.J.O., showing that his vote there did not apply until 1st January. The letters J.O. would mean January to October, and in that way the presiding officer would know that his vote did not come into operation until 1st January. Before 1st September, perhaps, he wished to go back to the burgh, or to select some other constituency, but he could not sever himself until 31st December, and the county register must bear opposite his name S.N.D., showing that he continued to vote there until the beginning of January. He submitted that this was a very confusing state of matters. It was confusing to the sheriff-clerk who had to affix to his name the signification, it was confusing to the voter himself, and it was confusing to the officer presiding at the election. There was no necessity for this confusion, as there was no reason why the English method should be superimposed on the Scottish register. He submitted that the Scottish voter ought to be able to make his selection not for the calendar year, but for the currency of the Scottish Parliamentary register from 1st November to 31st October.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Now that I understand the hon. Member, I think he is proposing a change from the calendar year for Scotland. That is something quite different from the Amendment; it contravenes what is already decided, and, therefore, it is not in order.

*MR. GULLAND: I was trying to show that Clause 5 should be left out and that there should be another system with regard to Scotland.

*THE CHAIRMAN: What the hon. Member was trying to do was to show that something required to be done which would necessitate an alteration in Clause 1, and that cannot be altered at this stage.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) asked whether the clause did not say that the Secretary for Scotland was to be empowered to make alterations which were rendered necessary by the fact that the currency of the Parliamentary register in Scotland did not coincide with the calendar year.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The Secretary for Scotland is empowered to make alterations with regard to Scotland. The point which the hon. Member for the Dumfries Burghs was making was clearly out of order.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR: Do I understand that your ruling is that the Amendment is not in order?

THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member desires to move an Amendment he must use arguments which are in order.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) asked whether there would be no opportunity for Scottish Members to suggest alterations in the Bill.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON asked whether it would be in order if he moved the Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN said it would be in order.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON then moved the Amendment. On the First Reading of the Bill the First Commissioner of Works said he would make provision to meet this difficulty in regard to Scotland. They ought to move this Amendment in order to ask the right hon. Gentleman what provision he contemplated making to fulfil the promise he had given to the House. It was not enough to tell them the Secretary for Scotland was to be empowered to issue instructions for any purpose for which an Order in Council might be made under this Act.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 13, to leave out from the word 'Act' to the end of the sub-section."—(*Mr. Mitchell-Thompson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'including,' in line 16, stand part of the clause."

*MR. GULLAND said he had endeavoured to show how this Bill, excellent in regard to England, would, in his judgment, not be satisfactory with regard to Scotland. In the majority of these cases in England it was a question of selection as between one constituency and another, and there would be no trouble at all. But if a man made his selection in Scotland it should be in respect of the Scottish Parliamentary register which ran from 1st November to 31st October, and not in respect of the calendar year, as was the case in England.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the hon. Member is not in order in making that proposal. Clause 1, Sub-section (1) says—

> "A person registered as a Parliamentary elector in more than one constituency shall not vote as such, or ask for a ballot or voting paper for the purpose of so voting during any calendar year after *the year nineteen hundred and seven*. . ."

Clause 5 says—

> "The Secretary for Scotland may issue instructions for any purpose for which an Order in Council may be made under this Act, and may also issue any instructions which are rendered necessary by the fact that the currency of the Parliamentary register in Scotland does not coincide with the calendar year . . ."

That is quite a different point from what the hon. Member was recommending, namely, that the Bill really should be altered to suit the case of the Scottish register.

*MR. GULLAND said in his judgment the Secretary for Scotland should not have put upon him the duty of issuing instructions as to the method in which this difficulty should be dealt with. The particular method in which it should be dealt with should be laid down in the Bill. So far as Scotland was concerned, the expression "the currency of the Parliamentary register" should be substituted for "any calendar year," provided that no person should be entitled to record a vote both in a constituency in England or Ireland and in a constituency in Scotland during the same calendar year.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) asked the Committee to notice the position in which the Scottish Members were placed. It was admitted by the right hon. Gentleman that the position created in Scotland was somewhat peculiar, and that it required special treatment. They now asked how this special treatment was to be carried out, and they were given no explanation. Not only that, but instead of those regulations being laid down by an Order in Council, they were to be laid down by the instructions of the Secretary for Scotland. He was not aware that Orders in Council did not run in Scotland as well as in England and Ireland. He was well aware, on the contrary, that Orders in Council were a very usual and constant method of doing business in Scotland. Why was procedure under this Bill to be different from that under any other Bill? Regulations which, it was admitted by the right hon. Gentleman, required particular consideration had not been explained to the Committee down to the present moment; but the framing of them was to be handed over to the Secretary for Scotland. He was proud to support the hon. Member opposite, who had detailed with great skill and force the difficulties which would arise under this clause.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said he was far from making any pretence to the Committee that considerable difficulties would not arise out of the fact that the register in Scotland ran from 1st November to 1st November, and in England from 1st January to 1st January. The position of the Committee was that it had affirmed under Section 1 that the selection process must be at the beginning of the calendar year, that was to say, 1st January; and the endeavour was to bring the Scottish procedure into line with that decision. What was proposed to be done by his hon. friend's proposal was a very simple operation, viz., that the calendar year should run as the register year. But he would point out that that would be contrary to what had been affirmed by Section 1, and would operate unjustly, which he was quite sure his hon. friend would deplore. A man having qualifications in both England and Scotland might make his selection on 1st September to vote in Scotland, getting leave to vote, say, from 1st November, 1906, to 1st November, 1907. In the course of the year if he changed his mind and proposed to go to England to vote, and intimated his intention on 1st November, he would find, as the result that he had lost his Scottish vote for 1907 and would not get his English vote until the following year. In a proposal of his hon. friend the vote would be lost for two months. The only safe course was to stick to the calendar year, under which there would be no disfranchisement of either Scotsmen or Englishmen. All that the clause provided for was a special marking of the register which would give the man the right to vote continuously within the United Kingdom.

MR. WALTER LONG said he wished to congratulate the Government upon the result which had followed the first appearance of one of their own supporters speaking in support of the Bill, but introducing an Amendment which would make the Bill work more smoothly. The Lord-Advocate had told them that an English man, if he chanced to cross the border, would lose his vote, but they had not heard what would become of the Scottish voter who crossed the border into England. Hon. Gentlemen who were familiar with Acts of Parliament knew that it was not unusual to introduce what was known as the Henry the Eighth Clause, which enabled the Government to make a Bill operate if in it there were found certain inaccuracies. But there was never an Henry the Eighth Clause more complete or drastic than that which gave to all concerned this unlimited power to make the Scottish system conform to a clause which had been adopted in regard to England, but which, as it stood, would produce confusion in Scotland. Up to now he had thought Englishmen entitled to the sympathy ot their fellow citizens in connection with this Bill. He now realised that the unfortunate Scotsmen received even worse treatment at the hands of their friends. He thought that bad as the treatment which we in this country had received at the hands of the Government our Scottish fellow citizens had received even worse treatment from their own friends.

MR. COURTHOPE said the arguments which the Lord-Advocate had used were very thin indeed. He should certainly support the Amendment if his hon. friend went to a division.

SIR E. CARSON said he had considerable sympathy with the voter who had to search through an Act of Parliament and then go to the *Gazette* in order to see if he had a vote or not.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG thought the Committee should seriously consider the position. He submitted that this method of legislating by reference had been carried altogether to too great a length. Here they had a point which the Lord Advocate had admitted was one of the greatest difficulty. Apparently it had puzzled both himself and his colleagues on the Treasury Bench and then it was to be referred to the Secretary for Scotland.

THE CHAIRMAN did not think the hon. Member was in order. He must speak to the question before the Committee.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he was addressing an argument to the Committee in order to show that the section as it stood was unworkable and was bad in many respects.

THE CHAIRMAN said that that had nothing to do with the Amendment.

SIR E. CARSON thought that they were entitled to some explanation.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that the Orders which were consequential upon the statute would be given effect to by statutory rules and forms. A point had been taken as to the dilemma in which the English voter would find himself, but he was completely covered and kept right by the operation of the first clause, which so far as he was concerned gave him no trouble, but having within the current year selected where he would vote he could vote nowhere else. He hoped that the Committee would not understand from anything which had been said that he suggested for a moment that the Scottish system was in any respect defective even when compared with the English system. He had a very strong opinion that a reform on this subject was due under which the English system would be brought up to the sensible Scottish system of the 1st of November, and under which the new register would be made available south of the Tweed as it was north of the Tweed for the municipal elections. They did not intend to bring in any Bill on the subject, but he would say that there was no grounds for saying that a certain portion of the constituency would be disfranchised.

Mr. WYNDHAM (Dover) said he did not wish to retort upon the Lord-Advocate. This was not a question between England and Scotland at all, and perhaps the latter had the better system. But all the Members of the House, whether sitting for English, Irish, or Scottish constituencies, were sitting there under the same rules and under a similar system of references, and they were all there as Members for definite constituencies. Now, however, it was suggested for the first time that the Secretary for Scotland was to lay down rules or regulations as to the particular way in which any Scottish or English Member was to sit in the House of Commons. The Government by saying that they were to sit there under an Order in Council under a new reform Bill which for the first time merely took votes away were committing an outrage upon the traditions and the debates of the House.

*Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON asked the Lord Advocate what he meant when he said that they were to make their procedure in Scotland conform with the system which had been laid down in sub-section (1) of Section 1. Did he mean by that, that in fact and in practice the currency of the Scottish register would not be still from the 1st of November to the 1st of November, but from the 1st of January to the 1st of January, and, if so, he wished further to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether this was the "slight alteration" to which he alluded at an earlier stage of the debates.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) said there was one remark of the hon. Member's that attracted his particular attention, and that was that the English voter was captured and kept right by the penalties of Clause 1. He wanted to know whether the Scottish voter was to be captured and kept right by the same penalties.

The CHAIRMAN said this had nothing to do with the clause.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER said that they wished to know whether the Lord-Advocate had power under this instruction to alter this rule as regards punishments, because it was most important to know whether Englishmen and Irishmen were to be treated worse than Scotsmen under this Act.

The CHAIRMAN said that question did not arise.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said as a Scottish Member it was the duty of the Scottish Members to protest against these matters being dealt with by means of instructions to be issued by the Secretary for Scotland. He urged the Government to reconsider this matter and give some assurance that they would make some statement with regard to it on the Report stage of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished that hon. Members would speak to the Question. The actual Question was that all the words after the word "Act" in page 3, line 13, should be struck out. That was the only Question before the Committee.

Lord R. CECIL thanked the Chairman for his observations which he thought had cleared the air very considerably. The question he wished to put as an Englishman, slightly confused by the elaborate explanations given by Scottish Members, although no doubt those explanations were perfectly intelligible to them, was this. He wanted to know whether they would have, and he really thought they ought to, some description of the nature of these instructions. There was something in addition to the powers given in England, because the first three lines of the clause gave the Secretary for Scotland all the powers given to England. He did not in the least understand what the nature of these instructions could be unless it was in some way to modify the first clause of the Bill. It had been ruled that no modification could now be made, even by this Committee, in Clause I. and were they now to rule that the Secretary for Scotland upon his own *ipse dixit* could do what this House could not?

MR. COURTHOPE thought that the Lord-Advocate had made a mistake when he said that he hoped the time would shortly come when the register would come into force south of the Tweed at the same time as north of the Tweed, namely, on the 1st of November. It did so now.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD did not agree with his hon. friends around him, because the situation disclosed by reading the first section in connexion with Clause 5 showed that the question was exceedingly complicated. But he thought that the procedure adopted by the Government was not an improvement of the electoral law, and that the selection must be for the calendar year. It was obvious that they would have to wait for the further instructions, and he could quite conceive that those instructions would have to give the Scottish voter the same amount of selection, namely, for the whole year, as the English voter was to have. The confusion would be considerable. Supposing a man to be on the register in Scotland from 1st November to 31st October, for one place, and supposing he knew he was going to lose that qualification, he would still want to vote for it if the election took place any time before October. He might want to exercise his legitimate right of selection for the whole twelve months, and the result would be that he would have to send in a notice of selection not of one constituency but of two constituencies. It was a very complicated matter and he would impress upon the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that he should make some explicit statement as to the instructions to be given.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said if the Secretary for Scotland was to be given authority to make regulations as to how Members were to be returned to this House his desire was to vote against the retention of these words. But in that case he would be supporting a state of things by which a person having a vote in England and also in Scotland would either be disfranchised for two months or have two votes for two months. Being in this dilemma his only safe course was to vote against the Government.

SIR E. CARSON said that the question was whether the Committee was prepared to give the Secretary for Scotland powers, not only to put the Act into force, but to repeal former Acts as to the calendar year. That was going beyond what had ever been done by Order in Council, and he hoped the Lord-Advocate would consider it a point worthy of consideration.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that under no possible circumstances did the Government desire or intend to give to the Secretary for Scotland any power beyond the actual provisions of the Act. The real object of the latter part of the section was to provide for the discrepancy between the close of the register of one country and the close of the register in the other. Instructions would be issued which were rendered necessary by the fact that the currency of the Parliamentary register in Scotland did not coincide with the calendar year. The necessity of bringing these into line was the only reason the section had been drawn in this form.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said it appeared to him that what were, after all, points of very small magnitude were being raised to the importance of a great constitutional question. He was sorry he could not altogether agree with some of his hon. friends on this question, because so far as he understood the point before the Committee it was to a large extent whether they would or would not give to the Secretary for Scotland the control of Scottish affairs. He maintained that in giving the Secretary for Scotland power, which so far as England was concerned would be contained in an Order in Council, they were carrying out the legitimate object of this Bill. The proposal was only a question of machinery. The situation in Scotland was different from that in England, and they were bound to leave a certain discretion and a certain administrative power in the way of machinery in the hands of their executive officer in order to carry the Act into force, and the most responsible officer in this case was undoubtedly the Secretary for Scotland, who was answerable to this House. He did not think that any Secretary for Scotland would be likely to go outside the four corners of the Bill, and they had no alternative but to leave this matter in his hands.

Lord TURNOUR thought the Secretary for Scotland ought to give an answer to this point, seeing that the question was immediately connected with his department. Everything that was possible had been done for him during the recess, and his prompters were sitting not twenty yards away, and under those circumstances one would have thought that it would have been possible for the Secretary for Scotland to give an answer to a specific question like that. He hoped that some right hon. Gentleman on behalf of the Government would give an answer.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said the Amendment before the Committee was in regard to the instructions which the Secretary for Scotland had to issue. Throughout the whole of this discussion the Secretary for Scotland had not been in his place, and he had not dared to face the House of Commons in regard to a matter for which he would be responsible. All he had to say was that nothing had occurred in this House more un-Scottish than the conduct of the Secretary for Scotland in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that the hon. Member's remarks were not relevant to the Amendment.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY, to put himself in order, moved to report progress, but

The CHAIRMAN declined to accept the Motion.

Original Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 341; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 353.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. H.(Eastbourne
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rH'mlets, S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)

Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras)
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Leiws (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir Geroge
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knustford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb. Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs ,Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.

Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton underLyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whithead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh, N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlexF.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry,N.)
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin,S
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool,Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Staveley-Hill, Henry Staff'sn.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Mitchell-Thomson and Sir Henry Craik.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey), in moving to report progress, gave notice that it was the intention of the Prime Minister to move the suspension of the Eleven o'clock rule to-morrow.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at two minutes after Eleven o'clock.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Wednesday, 31st October*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

## *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

### METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bill, viz.: E. Morley; L. Clifford of Chudleigh (chairman); L. Belhaven and Stenton; L. Clements (*E. Leitrim*); L. Pirrie; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bill.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; of inhabitants of Melton-Mowbray and district, and parish of Heaton. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious education in schools; of the Diocesan Council of the Mothers' Union in Winchester diocese; parents and guardians of children attending a school at Warton; and inhabitants of the parish of Westham. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3726. Mexico. Presented, by Command, and ordered to lie on the Table.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

House again in Committee (according to Order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said that last evening the actual Amendment before the Committee was that of the most rev. Primate, to omit in the first line of the clause the words "for the purpose of continuing," and to substitute "shall, if required by the owner, continue." He wished to ask His Majesty's Government what view they took of the suggestion which he ventured to make in the course of the debate, and which he had now placed on the Paper. Assuming that they were unable to agree to the Amendment of the most rev. Primate, of course it was possible that their Lordships' House might differ from them, and that the Amendment might be inserted in the Bill. If it were inserted, they would then come to the consideration of the proviso of which the most rev. Primate had given notice, to insert at the end of the clause certain words which appeared on the Paper. The words constituted practically two provisos. The most rev. Prelate proposed that—

> "If the local education authority fail to make an arrangement by agreement with the owners of the schoolhouse, the arrangement shall be made by the Commission appointed under this Act, and the provisions of this Act with reference to schemes shall apply to any arrangement made by the Commission; provided that if the local education authority consider that the schoolhouse of any existing voluntary school is, on account of its structural condition, not suited for continued recognition as a public elementary school, they may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board may, if they think fit, appoint a date at which the school shall cease to be recognised, and the authority shall be under no obligation to continue any such school under this section."

To the second proviso he (Viscount St. Aldwyn) had suggested as an Amendment the addition of the words "or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation.' The proviso would then read—

> "Provided that if the local education authority consider that the school house of any existing voluntary school is, on account of its structural condition, not suited for continued

recognition as a public elementary school, or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation, they may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board may, if they think fit, appoint a date at which the school shall cease to be recognised, and the authority shall be under no obligation to continue any such school under this section."

He understood that the most rev. Primate entirely agreed with this Amendment, and that it would have his Grace's support. He assumed that in the event of the most rev. Primate's first Amendment being agreed to, His Majesty's Government would not differ from the Amendment which he had just read, because, of course, it limited the operation of the compulsory part of the clause. Then came the question of the further proviso which he suggested last night, and which now appeared upon the Paper, viz.—

"Provided that where an existing voluntary school is not continued on account of its not being required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation, the local education authority shall be bound, on the requisition of the owners of the school house, to afford facilities for the special religious instruction hitherto given in that school in some other school accessible to children resident in the same area as those who have attended the school which is not continued."

He was a good deal impressed, on reflection, with the observation which fell in the course of the debate from the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, to the effect that if that proviso were proposed and discussed at the present juncture on Clause 2 it would possibly be inconvenient to their Lordships as anticipating a discussion which would more properly take place on the 3rd or 4th clauses. If His Majesty's Government entertained that view he would not wish to press the proviso on Clause 2. He did not bind himself to the particular words which he had suggested, but he did entertain the strongest feeling as to the necessity for some reasonable and satisfactory arrangement of the kind. That matter might be, no doubt, more conveniently discussed on later clauses, and if those clauses were not amended so as to carry what he suggested, then it would be open to him to make that suggestion at a later stage. Of course, it was possible that the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council might be able, as he sincerely hoped he would, to inform them that His Majesty's Government would accept, either wholly or in some modified form, the proviso he suggested.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): My Lords, before I reply, may I ask the noble Viscount one question? In the event of his second proviso being postponed until Clause 3, does he propose to move his first proviso?

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: I propose to move the first proviso in any case.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: We undoubtedly arrived at a somewhat complicated situation yesterday evening, and the real question for the Committee to consider is how this discussion, which we all wish to be complete, can be best carried on. On this point of the continuance of unnecessary schools, there are, with regard to the question of taking them over, no less than five separate propositions before the Committee. There is the proposition of the most rev. Primate that all such schools should be taken over; there is the proposition of the noble Viscount opposite; there is the proposition of my noble friend Lord Camperdown, that there should be an appeal of a certain kind to the Board of Education; there is a new proposition from the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Southwark which involves a different kind of appeal, and there is also the proposal made by my right hon. friend in another place, known as the bilateral proposal, which is still open to the consideration of your Lordships' House. Under these circumstances the question is, how these had better be discussed. If the noble Viscount agrees to press his first proviso, as he tells us in any case he intends to do, I am inclined to believe that it would be more convenient, and tend to clear the ideas of everybody, if the consideration of the second proviso were postponed. On Clause 3 there are various Amendments regarding what are known as general facilities. I am bound to say that I assume, from the noble Lord having placed this proposal for limited facilities in this place, that he is not in favour of those general facilities. If he were, it clearly would be unnecessary to allude to these more limited facilities under Clause 2. However that may be, it perhaps may be more convenient, as matters stand, to postpone the consideration of the second proviso altogether until Clause 3 is reached.

Lord HERRIES said the postponement of the proviso in question would place those who were in favour of the continuance of the schools in a difficult position. The words at present in Clause 2 gave the local education authority complete power to close any school which they considered unnecessary, without any appeal on the part of the owners or the managers of the school. He objected to this most strongly. He thought there should be an appeal, and he had prepared an Amendment to the one proposed by Viscount St. Aldwyn on this point. His Amendment would provide for the insertion of these words—

> "The Board shall hold a public inquiry, and, if, after considering all the circumstances of the case and the wishes of the majority of the parents, they decide that the school is unnecessary, they may"—

and so on. With those words they would have some safeguard, which, as the clause at present stood, was lacking. He had great difficulty in assenting to the clause as it stood without some such safeguard.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: My Lords, the proposal which is made to your Lordships by the noble Lord below the gangway, as far as I was able to follow it, seemed to me to be a very reasonable one, but I think the experience of last night shows that noble Lords are reluctant to commit themselves to any Amendment which has not been put upon the Paper, and which they have not had a full opportunity of considering. I, therefore, venture to suggest to him that he might find another opportunity of laying his Amendment before us, and that we should for the present not commit ourselves with regard to it. As I understand the situation, what is before your Lordships at the present moment is a proposal to discuss the Amendment of the most rev. Primate with the Amendment of my noble friend Lord St. Aldwyn added to it.

*The Earl of CREWE: May I interrupt the noble Marquess for one moment? The Amendment which we are now on is the Amendment on page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out "for the purpose of continuing" and to insert "shall, if required by the owners, continue." Before you come to the proviso of the most rev. Primate which the noble Viscount opposite proposes to amend, there are various other Amendments on several points in Clause 2 which we shall have to take. I think it would be more convenient to take the whole of the discussion on all the Amendments dealing with this particular point of taking over and of unnecessary schools on the present Amendment of the most rev. Primate. Then when we come to the point at which the decision has to be given, some of these Amendments will disappear, and others, no doubt, will be added to the Bill; but it seems to me it would be difficult to divide the discussion into two and take part of it now, sandwiching in, as it were, discussions on matters connected with trusts, and then begin again to talk about unnecessary schools. The alternative, of course, would be for the most rev. Primate to press his first Amendment, but in that case I am afraid we should be obliged to take a division against it, which I think would probably mean taking an unnecessary division, and would cause some waste of time.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I think that what I was going to propose to your Lordships was very much in accordance with what has just been suggested. Of course, the first Amendment we come to in point of order is the Amendment in the earlier part of the clause, by which the word "shall" is substituted for "may," but I felt, as the noble Earl who has just sat down no doubt felt, that it was very difficult to discuss that Amendment without at the same time considering where we were going in the later part of the clause. I gathered from the discussion last night that the feeling, certainly on this side of the House, was in favour of accepting in principle the Amendment of the most rev. Primate. We desired that as a general rule the presumption should be that these schools would be taken over by the local education authority; but I think we also felt that the single condition which the most rev. Primate attached to that was almost too narrow a condition, that it would be going too far to say that these schools should be taken over as a matter of course, provided their structural condition was satisfactory. Now the noble Viscount behind me proposes to move an addition to the Amendment designed to meet that point. He proposes that there should be an appeal to the Board of Education, not only on the question of structural fitness, but also on the ground that the school is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation. Most noble Lords who sit near me would I think be prepared to vote with the most rev. Primate when we come to his proviso if these words are added to it. There will be other opportunities of discussing the question of facilities, and I would also remind your Lordships that a somewhat similar point will arise when we reach Clause 5, which deals with the conditions under which schools asking for special facilities are to be taken over by the local authorities. I, therefore, do not think that even those noble Lords who consider that the Amendment of my noble friend behind me gives perhaps too wide an opportunity for the refusal of these schools need have any anxiety upon the ground that they will be precluded from again referring to that point at subsequent periods of the Bill. The Amendment before us is, as I have already said, the Amendment at the beginning of the clause, and we shall vote with the most rev. Primate on that Amendment, with the idea that when we come to the proviso we shall also vote with him, but upon the condition that the noble Viscount's addition is attached to it.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: That entirely corresponds with the course which I am ready to follow.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of ONSLOW): The Amendment is—

> "In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out 'for the purpose of continuing,' and to insert 'shall, if required by the owners, continue.'"

On Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," resolved in the negative.

On Question, that the words "shall, if required by the owners, continue" be here inserted, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 209; Not Contents, 47.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
York, L. Abp.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Beaufort, D.
Bedford, D.
Devonshire, D.
Grafton, D.
Leeds, D.
Marlborough, D.
Newcastle, D.
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Rutland, D.
Somerset, D.
Sutherland, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Bristol, M.
Bute, M.
Cholmondeley, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Linlithgow, M.
Salisbury, M.
Zetland, M.

Abingdon, E.
Albemarle, E.
Bandon, E.
Bathurst, E.
Bradford, E.
Cadogan, E.
Cairns, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cathcart, E.
Cawdor, E.
Clarendon, E.
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Ducie, E.
Eldon, E.
Essex, E.
Feversham, E.
Fortescue, E.
Gainsborough. E.
Graham, E. (*D. Montrose.*)
Halsbury, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Harrowby, E.
Huntingdon, E.
Jersey, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Lathom, E.
Lichfield, E.
Lindsey, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Nelson, E.
Northbrook, E.
Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
Plymouth, E.
Powis, E.
Radnor, E.
Romney, E.
Rosse, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Wharncliffe, E.
Wicklow, E.
Winchilsea and Nottingham, E.

Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Cross, V.
Falkland, V.
Falmouth, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Ridley, V.
St. Aldwyn, V.

Bangor, L. Bp.
Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Birmingham, L. Bp.
Chester, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Exeter, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Abinger, L.
Alverstone, L.
Ampthill, L.
Armstrong, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Avebury, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Blythswood, L.
Bolton, L.
Borthwick, L.
Boston, L.
Braye, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam*).
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
De Mauley, L.
de Ros, L.
Deramore, L.
Desborough, L.
Digby, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Ebury, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Estcourt, L.
Faber, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Gormanston, L. (*V. Gormanston.*)
Grey de Ruthyn, L.
Harlech, L.
Hatherton, L.
Heneage, L.
Herries, L.
Kelvin, L.
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Knaresborough, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leigh, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Llangattock, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Methuen, L.
Middleton, L.
Minster, L. (*M. Conyngham.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Moncrieff, L
Mostyn, L.
Mowbray, L.
North, L.
Northbourne, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ormathwaite, L.
Ormonde, L. (*M. Ormonde*).
Petre, L.
Poltimore, L.
Ramsay, L. (*E. Dalhousie.*)
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Rathmore, L.
Ravensworth, L.
Robertson, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sandys, L.
Seaton, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Stalbridge, L.
Stanmore, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Tennyson, L.
Teynham, L.
Trevor, L.
Waleran, L.
Wenlock, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Loreburn, L. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)
Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)

Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Granville, E.
Kimberley, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Temple, E.

Althorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Selby, V.

Hereford, L. Bp.
Ripon, L. Bp.

Burghclere, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Eversley, L.
Farrer, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
Grimthorpe, L.
Hamilton of Dalzell, L.
Haversham, .
Hemphill, L.
Joicey, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Monson, L.
Overtoun, L.
Pirrie, L.
Reay, L.
Rendel, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton.*)
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Weardale, L.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH, on a point of order, said he would like to call attention to the statement of the noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition that he took exception to the Amendment of Lord Herries, because the Amendment was not upon the Paper. He (Lord Denbigh) thought it would be a pity if the House were to be committed to a sort of doctrine that no Amendment was to be considered unless it was on the Paper. The objection to the Amendment moved last night by Viscount St. Aldwyn was not that it was not on the Paper, but that it was introduced in a complex condition.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl quite misapprehended what I said. It never entered into my head to suggest that this House was precluded from taking an Amendment merely because it had not been put upon the Paper. What I suggested was that it was unfair to the House to ask them to vote upon a proposition which they had not had an opportunity of considering, and during the somewhat intricate conversation which took place last night that was a feeling which was prevalent in the minds of a great many of your Lordships. I merely suggested to Lord Herries that his Amendment had not been seen by the Committee, and that he should not press it at this moment.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I entirely agree with what has fallen from my noble friend the Leader of the Opposition. Nobody wishes to exclude Amendments of which no notice has been given. At the same time, I do feel very strongly that it is highly desirable that notice should be given of Amendments, and that they should appear on the Paper. They may be small, but the Committee can consider them very much better when they are on the Paper. In relation to an Amendment such as that of the noble Viscount opposite it was really quite impossible to give to it a proper consideration without having the actual words on the Paper; but nobody, I think, on either side of the House ever intended to say that any Member of the House was precluded from moving an Amendment which was not on the Paper, subject to the desire, I believe, of the House that, wherever possible, notice of Amendments should be given.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: Viscount Ridley's Amendment is similar to that of the most rev. Primate's. Does he press it?

VISCOUNT RIDLEY said it was true his Amendment was put down to achieve the same object as the Amendment that had just been carried. He, therefore, desired to move it only formally, in order that he might make a few remarks and invite the attention of His Majesty's Government to a consideration of their position. He desired to ask the Government whether they could not give their Lordships' House some indication of their views upon this subject. He asked this not in any sense with a desire to obstruct the business of the House, but because he thought the noble Earl would see that the history of this Amendment was a somewhat curious one. The Amendment of the most rev. Primate was designed to meet the same case as the new clause which was moved on Report in the House of Commons by Mr. Birrell—the new clause known as the bilateral clause. The Government, therefore, had admitted that there was a difficulty in regard to the transfer of schools. But in the course of this debate they had given no indication of the course they proposed to pursue in order to remove that difficulty. They were attempting to throw upon the Opposition in their Lordships' House the responsibility for the conduct of a Bill which they had had no hand whatever in drafting. He thought it reasonable to ask the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, who, it was evident, desired to conduct the Bill in the best way possible, whether he could not give some indication of what the Government themselves proposed to do in their Lordships' House in regard to the Amendment which they moved in another stage of the Bill in the other House.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 11 and 12, to leave out, 'for the purpose of continuing,' and to insert, 'shall continue.'"—(*Viscount Ridley.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I cannot feel that the proposal made by the noble Viscount opposite—it hardly amounts to a complaint—is altogether a reasonable one. Our views are expressed in the Bill, but when Amendments are moved——

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: The Government's views may be expressed in the Bill, but my point was that in the course of debate in another place speeches were made and clauses suggested indicating the view of the Government that something further ought to be done, but in your Lordships' House nothing is said with regard to that.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: We are anxious to hear the views of different noble Lords, which seem to be exceedingly varied, upon this clause. They are expressed in four different Amendments. It is perfectly true that when the clause was in another place my right hon. friend made what is known as the bilateral offer. I do not know whether it is necessary to explain what that is to your Lordships, but it briefly comes to this, that if there is to be an obligation on the local authority to take over all necessary schools there should also be an obligation to hand over all schools which the local authority requires. That offer, as I have already stated this evening, is still open to your Lordships to consider. It is one of the various proposals before your Lordships, and I am not going further than to say that, if it is desired, I should be most happy to argue the merits of that proposal. The noble Marquess the Leader of the Opposition brushed that proposal somewhat lightly aside, on the ground that its author had voted against it in another place. What happened was this. An offer was made by my right hon. friend to the Opposition. That offer was not accepted, and my right hon. friend very properly, as I think, did not think it right, so to speak, to cram his olive branch down the throats of people who did not want it, and consequently he did not force the Amendment by the weight of the Government majority in another place. Here we have not got a majority, but if noble Lords opposite hold out any hopes of accepting that offer, which we again make, we shall be happy to discuss the question on those lines. If that is not done, all we can do is to listen to the varied proposals made by noble Lords and right rev. Prelates, and express the best opinion we can upon them.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN asked whether the noble Earl meant to intimate that the bilateral part of Mr. Birrell's Amendment was, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, an essential part of that Amendment. The bilateral proposal — that was to say, the compulsion of both the education authority and the trustees and owners of the schools—was not a proposition which was before the House of Commons at all when Clause 2 was debated. It was subsequently embodied in Mr. Birrell's new clause. What was impressed upon Mr. Birrell was that the absolute liberty on the part of the education authority to take or not to take over a school was an unfair thing to the owners and trustees of voluntary schools and to the children and their parents. That had now been altered by their Lordships' House. What now was the position? Was His Majesty's Government willing in any way to qualify Mr. Birrell's proposal, or did they hold it essential that whatever was done should apply to both parties?

*THE EARL OF CREWE: It appears to me that it is hardly reasonable to expect us to give a general opinion on possible Amendments of this clause before some of the important Amendments upon it have even been considered. There is an exceedingly important Amendment standing in the name of the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Southwark, which he has not yet moved and which I have no doubt will lead to a good deal of discussion. But, as regards the bilateral offer, what I mean is this, that we here repeat in exactly the same terms the offer which was made by my right hon. friend in the House of Commons. We do not go beyond that

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY said it seemed they were left more in the dark than ever. The action of the Government in the other House had been extraordinary, and he was at a loss to understand their position. Now that the bilateral question had been raised a full explanation was required. From what he could understand, the Government made that proposal in the House of Commons, and then proceeded to vote against it. He thought their Lordships were entitled to full explanation from the noble Earl in charge of the Bill as to what was in the minds of the Government when they followed that unprecedented course.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE) thought there was a little confusion in the minds of some noble Lords in regard to the exact effect the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate had on the bilateral arrangement. As he understood it, the owners would have the same obligation as was given to the local authority. That was the meaning of bilateralism in the strict sense of the term, but he could hardly imagine that that was what noble Lords opposite meant when the word bilateral was used. Such a proposal might more naturally come from the Government side. The nature of his proposition should be explained more fully by the noble Marquess.

LORD HENEAGE said the question before the Committee was whether the words "in cases where they desired to do so, may," should remain in the clause. There was no question of bilateralism before the Committee. He would like to know whether the Amendment was English. What was the meaning of "shall" in cases "where they desire to do so?" Was it not equal to "may?" The clause related to the transfer of schools. As it stood the owners could not take any step to facilitate transfer unless a motion came from the local authority. That was a very unreasonable proposition. The owners or trustees should be able to go to the local authority.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said that the noble Viscount Lord Ridley had declared that he moved the Amendment not with the *bona fide* intention of pressing it, but with a view of making a speech. He took it that the Amendment was before the Committee, although the Lord Chairman had pointed out that it was similar to the Amendment which had been moved by the most rev. Primate and adopted by the Committee. The offer made in the other House should now be made by the Opposition since they had carried their Amendment. He altogether dissented from the idea that the offer was made on the supposition that it would improve the Bill. Concessions were often made which were really blemishes and not improvements; they were made to facilitate the progress of a Bill, but in the present instance it was his opinion that the Bill was better without the concession.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I should like to ask the Lord Chairman, on a point of order, what the Amendment is before the Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The only question is the insertion of certain words which have already been inserted.

LORD BURGHCLERE: Then I ask the Lord Chairman whether he is in order in putting such an Amendment to the Committee.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY: Perhaps it would save trouble if I ask leave of the Committee to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD HENEAGE moved the omission of the words "in cases where they desire to do so" and the insertion of the word "and." The words as they at present stood gave the idea that the local authority alone were to have the right of saying whether the schools were to continue or not.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out 'in cases where they desire to do so,' and to insert 'and.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY moved to omit the words "with the consent of the Board of Education." This, he explained, was a consequential Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 13 and 14, to leave out, 'with the consent of the Board of Education.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD moved to insert, "with the consent of any person whose consent would have been required for the purposes of, or transfer under, Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870." He was not quite certain whether his Amendment was now in order, and he had no desire to take up the time of the Committee on an Amendment which was not strictly in order.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: I have no more power to say whether or not a matter is in order than any other Member of your Lordships' House; but, if the right rev. Prelate asks my personal opinion, I may say that I have looked into the matter since he drew my attention to it, and I think it turns upon the question whether the Board of Education is a "person" within the meaning of the clause. The Board of Education has been struck out, and the right rev. Prelate now proposes to insert words to the effect that a school shall only be transferred with the consent of any person whose consent would have been required for the purposes of, or transfer under, Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. I understand that the Board of Education had to give their consent, and I am not at all in a position to say whether or not the word "person" would cover the Board of Education.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD, who asked for that indulgence which was usually extended to one who addressed their Lordships for the first time, explained that finding it difficult to ascertain the position of the trustees under this Bill, and being in some uncertainty as to the definition of owners, he wished to guard against transfers which would change the character of voluntary schools. He did not propose this Amendment with any intention whatever of placing an unnecessary impediment in the way of the proper transfer of the schools to the local authorities. On the contrary, he would desire to facilitate that transfer in any manner possible, if he could be assured that under it the rights of conscience of the parents and those who desired that denominational instruction should be given would be properly safeguarded. But that was not what he found under this Bill. Indeed, there seemed to be almost an invitation to trustees, as a good discharge of their trust, to turn a denominational school into a provided school, with no security whatever for due facilities and with a possibility of the school even being turned into a secular institution.

The trust deeds of the Church schools provided for a combination of general education and religious education. Those two things were mixed up in such a way that many of them felt, as trustees, that any separation might be almost a betrayal of their trust. He drew a great distinction between this religious education and mere religious instruction, comparing them to sugar put into a cake and the sugar outside, which was removable. Section 23 of the Act of 1870 provided for the consent of all persons who might be interested in the character of the school. In almost every one of the trust deeds for the 5,000 voluntary schools that had been built since 1870 there was a provision which ensured that the schools should not be alienated without the consent of the National Society, as the representative of the Church of England in this matter. Such trust deeds would be carefully guarded by the Act of 1870, but the safeguard seemed now to be swept away.

For want of some such words in the Bill as he proposed there was a risk that even perfectly modern trust deeds might be set aside. Great pressure might be brought to bear on individual trustees, and it might be possible to make an improvident transfer under this section. For the protection mainly of the trust deeds he pleaded that some such provision as he suggested should be embodied in the Bill. He trusted that the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council, with that marked courtesy with which he was conducting an admittedly difficult subject, would give his attention to this matter.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 14, after 'education,' to insert 'and with the consent of any person whose consent would have been required for the purposes of or transfer under Section 23 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I am sure you will all agree that any claim for indulgence which was made by the right rev. Prelate in his opening remarks was entirely unnecessary, in that he has placed before us an exceedingly difficult and intricate subject with the utmost lucidity. What the right rev. Prelate asks is that the same consents before these schools can be handed over should be required, as were required under Section 23 of the Act of 1870. Under that Act, schools were handed over by the managers and not by the trustees. Therefore, of course, their consent was required. The consent of the trustees, strangely enough as it may seem to us, was not required. Under that Act there undoubtedly were cases where managers handed over trust schools and turned them into board schools against the wishes of the trustees. The other consents that were required included the Board of Education, which has been already struck out by your Lordships, and the annual subscribers to such schools, two-thirds of whom had to concur in the transfer. As far as the subscribers are concerned, that question, as your Lordships will agree, does not arise on the present occasion.

The question in the first place seems to be mainly as to whether this power of transfer should be vested in the trustees or in the managers. I confess I was a little surprised to hear such very marked distrust of the possible action of the trustees expressed by the right rev. Prelate. I certainly should have supposed, on the face of it, that not merely in the vast majority of cases but in all cases with very few possible exceptions, the trustees of these schools might have been relied upon to carry out, not merely the letter but the spirit of their trusts, and if it is not so, I can only say that the Church of England seems to have found a strange set of trustees to administer its educational charities.

The point which we desire particularly to impress upon the Committee is this, that it is of paramount necessity that there should be one body of persons carrying out the negotiations. I think your Lordships will see that in the case of the transfer of a large number of schools it is impossible to require a consent here and a consent there from great numbers of different bodies. What the actual body of persons shall be—a single one we say it must be—is a difficult matter, and it is one on which no doubt there is much to be said. This transaction of handing over the schools is a business transaction, and therefore it is natural, I should conceive, speaking, of course, as a layman, that the trustees should be the persons to make that transfer. There is a further reason. The right rev. Prelate must remember that these transactions are not single transactions, that they are made for a limited term of years and will have to be repeated. Five years hence it is not quite easy to see what body except the trustees would be likely to be in a position to make such a bargain. At present, no doubt, the foundation managers might conceivably take their place or be called in to assist them, but in the case of a further and future arrangement it seems to me that there is nobody but the trustees who could properly be called in.

There is a further consideration. Your Lordships have made it imperative on the local authorities to take over the schools whether they wish to do so or not. Surely your Lordships will not think it right and proper that all the bodies interested in a school should be empowered to deal with the unwilling authority. If that obligation is to be enforced by a single authority, surely the other obligation of making the arrangements should be carried out by a single authority as well. Your Lordships may dislike many of the provisions of the Bill, but I believe that once it is passed it will be your desire to see it working successfully; and if the Commissioners are to carry out the transfers with ease and smoothness it is essential that they should have to deal with a single body only. Therefore, though I appreciate the strong feeling expressed by the right rev. Prelate on behalf, for instance, of the National Society, who in the existing circumstances no doubt have the power of refusing assent in the cases of a large number of schools, we are obliged to adhere to the arrangement that in a transfer the Commissioners shall have to deal with one body only.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY thought the Amendment was most moderate and reasonable. It was possible that some trustees might have an easy conscience with regard to denominational education, and consequently, when arranging a transfer, might not insist upon facilities being given for religious instruction. The Amendment would provide a safeguard in such cases. He was the more perplexed at the action of the noble Earl in declining to accept this Amendment because, so far as he could gather from the speech of the President of the Board of Education, this section was based more or less on the section alluded to in the Act of 1870. Speaking on 10th May, Mr. Birrell said—

> "Provision is made in Section 23 of the Act of 1870 for arrangements being come to voluntarily, as in Clause 2 of this Bill, between the owners of the voluntary school and the local authority for the transfer of the school to the local authority for the purpose of carrying on the work of a public elementary school."

He repeated that it was impossible to reconcile the speeches of Ministers with the provisions in the Bill itself. He could not reconcile that speech with the refusal of the noble Earl to accept this Amendment, and he thought he had a right to ask the noble Earl in charge of the Bill to explain.

LORD DAVEY could not see the contradiction which the noble Marquess seemed to find in what was reported to have been said by the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill in the other House and the action of the Lord President of the Council. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to have said—and he entirely agreed with him—that this clause of the Bill was intended to effect the same object as was effected by Clause 23 of the Act of 1870. That was all he said, and it was perfectly true. But why did he introduce a new clause and not rely upon the existing Clause 23? He assumed that the reason could only have been that the machinery of Clause 23 was so cumbrous and in practice had been found so unworkable that it had been very little used, and, therefore, while keeping the same purpose in view, the right hon. Gentleman had devised a new clause for carrying it out.

He did not doubt for one moment that the right rev. Prelate who introduced this Amendment was perfectly sincere when he said that his desire was not to throw an impediment in the way of, but to facilitate, the smooth working of these transfers. But, while he gave the right rev. Prelate the most ample credit for his benevolent intention, he felt compelled to say that he appeared to have taken the very worst way of carrying it out, for anything more calculated to hamper or prevent transfers than the adoption of the machinery in Section 23 of the Act of 1870 he could not conceive. He believed anybody who had had practical experience of the working of the Act of 1870 would confirm him when he said that the section in question had been found so difficult on account of the number of consents required to be obtained that it had in fact been very little used.

Let them consider what it was that the right rev. Prelate desired to introduce into the Bill. First, there was the consent of the Board of Education; that had now been disposed of. Then there was the consent of two-thirds of the annual subscribers to the school. In the Act of 1870 that provision had a very definite meaning, because the maintenance of the school was provided for by annual subscriptions from a list of subscribers, and it might have been perfectly right at that time that, inasmuch as they paid for the support of the school, they should have a voice as to whether the school should be transferred or not; but there was now a different state of things. By the Act of 1902 that was all swept away. The maintenance of the school—he was not speaking of the building—was provided for out of the rates, and, therefore, if they were to have any analogy at all it ought to be the consent of those who now paid the piper. There was now, he was told, no such thing as a list of subscribers in most of the voluntary schools. When money was required for the special purpose of repairing the building it was raised by contributions, but an annual list of subscribers for the purpose for which it existed at the time the Act of 1870 was passed no longer existed, and, therefore, to require the consent of two-thirds of the subscribers now would be perfectly idle and introduce difficulty and delay.

Then there was the consent of the managers. Under Clause 23 of the Act of 1870 the arrangements were to be made by the managers as they existed at that time. The managers were then representatives of the founders of the school. The managers now were a very different class of persons. They now had six managers, two of whom were representatives of the county council itself. This clause and these consents, which were devised for a totally different state of things from that which had been introduced by subsequent legislation, could no longer be availed of with advantage or without difficulty. Next a consent was necessary under the trust deed. He did not know whether it was desired that the National Society should have a veto on every transfer. It appeared to him that the whole Amendment and the speech of the right rev. Prelate was based on a mistrust of the trustees of these educational charities. In cases which had come within his knowledge the trustees were gentlemen interested in educational work, and they were usually chosen with some care; and if they could not trust the trustees he would like to know whom they were to trust. He would put it higher than that. They were trustees, and therefore bound to execute their trust, and he would conceive it to be the duty of trustees, before entering into any negociations or agreement with the local education authority, to consult, for instance, the foundation managers or the principal supporters of the schools, or, if they liked, the National Society; but, at any rate, to inform themselves as to what would be the wishes of those interested in the school of which they were trustees. They would then be able to negotiate on a much stronger footing. He asked their Lordships to consider whether anything could be gained, and whether, on the contrary, a great deal of friction and difficulty would not be introduced, by requiring these consents to be obtained.

LORD ALVERSTONE said that he could not take part in the discussion of political questions arising under this Bill, but this was a matter of machinery and drafting. He sympathised entirely with the right rev. Prelate's desire that there should be some protection for bodies in the position of the National Society, but he thought this would be an extremely dangerous Amendment as framed, and that in all probability it would not effect its purpose, at any rate in a satisfactory way. He suggested that a different Amendment might be framed in different words, and probably in a different part of the Bill, and that this Amendment should not be pressed. There was a grave doubt whether these words did not restore the consent of the Board of Education, as well as other bodies not contemplated. In his judgment, the words of the Bill, "the owners of the school house," were much the better governing words to keep, and if protection was required for any special body it would be much better to put in some words that would carry out the real wish of the right rev. Prelate and not introduce complications.

LORD BARNARD acquiesced in the suggestion of Lord Alverstone, and did not wish that this Amendment should be pressed further. He hoped, however, that at a future stage of the Bill the right rev. Prelate might find it possible to suggest some words which would better give effect to his desire, for, if they swept away at one blow the conditions on which founders and benefactors gave their property for charitable purposes, it would have a serious effect on the generosity of the founders and benefactors of the future.

LORD ASHBOURNE said the matter was not at all as simple as the right rev. Prelate thought, and it would be wise on his part to defer the consideration of the Amendment. The right rev. Prelate would find better opportunities at a later stage of the Bill for introducing the matter.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD said he was convinced by the arguments of his noble and learned friend Lord Davey and others that it would be impossible to carry out the Amendment as it stood with due regard to the smooth transfer of the schools. Therefore he did not intend to press the Amendment, but would, with the leave of the Committee, withdraw it. He did not, however, think their Lordships' discussion on the matter would have been wasted, as it had called attention to the fact, as stated by the noble and learned Lord the Lord Chief Justice, that some protection was undoubtedly needed under this provision.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD moved to insert words with the object of extending to trust owners of schools the option given under the Bill to private owners of executing alterations and improvements to the schools under the direction and at the cost of the local education authority. He hoped this Amendment would commend itself to the judgment of the Committee as being a very reasonable one on a small point of detail.

This part of the clause dealt with alterations and improvements in existing voluntary schools only, and with such alterations and improvements on the transfer of such schools, and afterwards on the renewal of arrangements under the trust. It provided that the local education authority should be financially responsible for all such alterations and improvements in transferred schools, and should be able to make any reasonable alterations and improvements. But, by an addition made in the other House, private owners of schools were given an option either to allow the local authority to do the work, or, if they wished, to do it themselves under the direction of the local authority, subsequently recovering the cost of the alterations and improvements. The object of his Amendment was to place trust owners in the same position so far as this one point was concerned.

In many cases it would doubtless be preferred that the local education authority should come in and do the work themselves, but he thought there ought to be at all events an option given to trust owners of the same kind as that extended to private owners. An option of this kind would certainly increase local interest in the school. He could conceive that in the case of many villages there might be persons in the locality who would like to see some architectural embellishment put on the school, and he thought those concerned locally should be allowed, at their own cost, to carry out such work. The Amendment would result in the long run in economy to the ratepayers, for many of their Lordships who owned schools would know that alterations ordered by the local education authority could be carried out much more cheaply by the owners than by the local authority.

It might be argued as an objection that the Amendment would lead to friction. The question which would have to be decided between the local education authority and the owners on the spot was of such a very simple character that he could not conceive any friction arising. It was a very different thing from an agreement between two parties where one party could force the other to pay for what it insisted upon. It was not a question of who was to pay, but merely a question of who should carry out the work.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, to leave out lines 1 and 2 and to insert 'owners themselves to execute if they desire the work needed to make.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Wakefield.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am sorry to be unable to accept the Amendment which the right rev. Prelate has moved in such clear and moderate terms. What happened in another place was this. When the clause was under consideration it was pointed out that in the case of private owners, such as your Lordships, many of whom have schools of your own, it would be a distinct convenience and a great economy to be able to carry out in some cases repairs and improvements yourselves. The economy and convenience would consist in the fact that on a great many estates there is a staff of workmen who undoubtedly would carry out the work more economically than it could be done if put out to contract. It was further pointed out that a great many of such schools were of a very ornamental character, and that local education authorities might not feel justified in adding to them in the same manner, and consequently the owner might wish to carry out the improvements on that higher scale.

In the case of trust schools the trustees have no staff of workmen of their own, and although it might be argued that sometimes the local authority, in the case of an ornamental trust school, would not be disposed to carry out the work quite so ornamentally as the trustees would themselves, I would refer to the point that was made by the right rev. Prelate as to the possibility or the probability of agreement between the two parties. There would be nothing whatever under this Bill to prevent the local authorities and the trustees agreeing on a particular kind or pattern of school, or to prevent the trustees, if they liked, paying the difference and arranging for a more ornamental school than the authority would be inclined to erect of its own initiative. Consequently, it seems to me that the cases are not at all on all fours. The proposition was inserted in the House of Commons, I think, at the instance of Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, admittedly and clearly on behalf of country gentlemen who were private owners of schools, and I do not think thi particular point was at all pressed by him.

Now, as to the objection to the Amendment. The right rev. Prelate has quite rightly anticipated the answer I shall give. It has been found, as a matter of fact, that a great deal of friction has arisen between trustees and local authorities in reference to this matter, and if the state of things which the right rev. Prelate desires were allowed to exist, I am afraid that friction would go on. We naturally desire to make the working of the Bill as smooth as possible. I confess I do not see in what the grievance of the right rev. Prelate consists. He admits that there is a great possibility that friendly arrangements will be made between the local authorities and the trustees as to the way in which the work should be done. The whole point of this provision in the Bill as it stands hangs upon the fact that the private owner has probably a staff of workmen of his own, and as trustees are not in that position there seems no reason for applying the same considerations to them.

LORD ASHBOURNE wished to know how many schools would be excluded from this clause by their trust deeds. He did not think the noble Earl had done justice to the elasticity of the clause. The object of the Amendment was to put all classes of voluntary schools in the same position.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: It is perfectly true that there are certain schools held under trust to which this provision would apply. The number of what are known as privately owned schools is about 2,500, but when the noble and learned Lord asks me to distinguish between the trust schools which are held under trusts which would bring them within the purview of this provision, and those which are not, I am afraid I must decline to give him an answer. It is an exceedingly difficult matter to say offhand what character of trust brings a school under a particular provision. But the noble and learned Lord is quite correct when he says that there are a very considerable number of trust schools which might take advantage of this provision. My sole point was that it was not for their benefit, but for the benefit of landowners that this provision was inserted.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he was disappointed to find the Government were not prepared to give way on this point. Alterations might be made in a school in a way that, while satisfying what was required simply for the needs of elementary education, might make the school unfitted for the other purposes for which it might be used. The needs of elementary education must of course be paramount, but it would often happen that by the expenditure of a little more money, which would of course come wholly from voluntary sources, the additional purposes would be served and education be the gainer too. The owners ought to be allowed to pay the difference in the cost of the alterations in order to ensure that the building should be suitable for those other purposes. He felt that it was exceedingly hard that trust owners should not stand in the same position as private owners in regard to this matter. It was perfectly true that there had been friction in the past and friction might still arise, but he did not think the possibility of that ought to be enough to prevent such a reasonable provision being given as that asked for in the Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY stated that he could confirm from his own personal experience a great deal of what had been urged upon the Government as reasons for agreeing to this Amendment. When he sat in the other House as Member for a Lancashire constituency a case arose with regard to the enlargement of a certain Roman Catholic school there, and the public authority tried to insist on the additions having a particular shape. It so happened that that particular shape would render the school unfit for public worship on Sunday, for which purpose the Roman Catholic priest in that district used it. The priest approached him and said he was quite prepared to make all the alterations necessary in point of space, but could not agree to the particular shape proposed. He (Lord Salisbury) was able to approach the authorities on that occasion and to see that justice was done. He thought that illustration would show their Lordships what great peril there was that an unreasonable authority might render a school unfitted for the purposes for which it might be used when it was not required as an elementary day school. In the village where he lived there were two Church schools; one was in the hands of trustees and the other belonged to himself. They were both important for what the right rev. Prelate had described as the embellishment of the village. It did not make any difference to their appearance whether he or trustees happened to be the owner. Yet in one case, in the event of improvements being required, he would be consulted and allowed to carry out the work, while in the other case an ugly unsightly building might be forced on the village. Then as to the question of the workmen. In his village his workmen would be quite as much at the disposal of the national school as they would be of the school which belonged to him, and he thought it was the same all over the country. He hoped the noble Earl, now that it had been shown that all his arguments against the Amendment fell to the ground, would allow the owners and trustees to have the management of the alterations if they desired it.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH questioned whether the term "alterations and improvements" included additions. He moved to add the word "additions"; but if the noble Earl in charge of the Bill assured him that the present wording was sufficient he would not press the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, after 'alterations,' to nsert 'additions.'"—(*Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: In our opinion the words "alterations and improvements" cover additions.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH: Then I withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*LORD AMPTHILL, who had the following Amendment on the Paper, viz:—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out 'and' and to insert 'but the use of the school house shall be given, or the school house shall be transferred to the local education authority free of any rent or any other payment in respect of the use of the school house for the purposes of a public elementary school;'" and "In line 14, after 'provided,' to insert 'but the owners of the school house shall under any such arrangement have and retain the right to use the school premises, or to permit them to be used, either in consideration of a payment or free of charge for purposes not inconsistent with the trust deed, if any, in the time during which the local education authority have not the use of the school house for educational purposes, and in every case the owners of the school house shall have such right of user during the whole of every Sunday and on at least three evenings in the week, subject only to any statutory provisions under which the use of the school house or any room therein may be required for public purposes other than educational purposes;'"

—said it was one of a series of Amendments which were all consistent and must stand or fall together. They were consequential on the following new clause which he had suggested in substitution for Clause 3, viz.—

"The local education authority shall provide religious instruction during school hours on at least three days in each week for children attending the school, such instruction to be given as far as practicable in accordance with the religious persuasion of their parents, whose wishes shall be ascertained in a manner to be provided by the Board of Education on the passing of this Act."

He had learnt from the tenor of discussions and from private conversations with noble Lords, as well as from the course of altering the Bill which had already commenced, that his Amendments had no chance whatever of acceptance, and, in these circumstances he felt that it would be an indiscretion to press them in any way. He was doubtful as to whether it would be more respectful to their Lordships to explain the objects with which he had put the Amendments on the Paper, or to leave them unexplained, but he thought that on the whole it would be better to explain them. His Amendments were——

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I am sorry to interrupt the noble Lord, but his scheme of Amendments depends on what are known as general facilities. As we have not yet touched that question would it not be more appropriate and more convenient to everybody if he made his statements upon Clauses 3 rather than upon the present clause?

*LORD AMPTHILL: I readily accede to that suggestion.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY formally moved the Amendment of which he had given notice, including the words in italics, of which Viscount St. Aldwyn had given notice.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 14, after the word 'provided' to insert the words 'If the local education authority fail to make an arrangement by agreement with the owners of the school house, the arrangement shall be made by the Commission appointed under this Act, and the provisions of this Act with reference to schemes shall apply to any arrangement made by the Commission.

"Provided that if the local education authority consider that the school house of any existing voluntary school is, on account of its structural condition, not suited for continued recognition as a public elementary school, *or is not required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accommodation*, they may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board may, if they think fit, appoint a date at which the school shall cease to be recognised, and the authority shall be under no obligation to continue any such school under this section.'"—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: The Question is, that those words be here inserted.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: I hope it will not be assumed that because we are not debating this we are assenting to it as a satisfactory solution.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: As that doubt has been raised I may as well state what the position is. The most rev. Primate has induced the Committee to accept an Amendment which we consider exceedingly objectionable. This proviso would make it somewhat less objectionable, and the proviso of the noble Viscount opposite would make it less objectionable still. Consequently, we do not oppose those provisos, but it must not be supposed that we agree with the whole scheme as presented.

VISCOUNT LLANDAFF was of opinion that the words in reference to the appeal were too restricted. A somewhat wider scope should be given to the inquiry by the Board of Education. For instance, in the cases of Halifax and Portsmouth, the figures of which were given the other day by the most rev. Primate, there was vacant accommodation in the provided schools sufficient for the scholars now in the voluntary schools. Therefore, if the question to the Board of Education was, whether the particular voluntary school in Halifax or in Portsmouth was required for the purpose of providing sufficient public school accomodation, the answer would be bound to be in the negative. The proposal of the Earl of Camperdown that the Board should consider all the circumstances and the wishes of parents of children attending the school was preferable.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN preferred his own Amendment, on the ground, as stated by the noble and learned Viscount who had just sat down, that it was wider in its terms, and if he were in order he would be prepared to support his proposition. He gathered, however, that it was the general opinion of the Committee when the Amendment of the most rev. Primate to insert "shall" was accepted that the Amendment now under consideration should follow, and therefore he would not move his Amendment.

*LORD ZOUCHE OF HARYNGWORTH said it was not quite clear if on the appeal the owner of the building condemned for structural reasons would be heard. It was a very easy thing to condemn almost any building on account of some structural objection, and it might possibly happen that an owner had a legitimate ground of complaint for the condemnation of the school. It seemed, as the words stood, that if a school were structurally not suited for continued recognition as a public elementary school there was an appeal to the Board of Education; but was it quite clear that, on that appeal, the owner of the school would have a right to be heard on the point as to whether or not the school had been properly condemned on structural grounds?

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK thought he would be consulting the convenience of the Committee and save time if he offered a word or two of explanation upon the Amendment standing in his name, which was another alternative on the same point. His Amendment was to insert in page 2, line 41, after subsection 5, the following new subsection:—

"(6)—(A) Nothing in this section shall affect the powers of a local education authority with respect to discontinuing schools provided by them under Section 18 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, but before the consent of the Board of Education required under that section is given, they must be satisfied that suitable public notice has been given by the local education authority not less than two months previously of their intention to discontinue the school, and the Board of Education in deciding whether their consent shall be given shall have regard to the interest of secular instruction, to the wishes of the parents as to the education (including the religious education) of their children, and to the economy of the rates.

"(B) An application may be made by the local education authority to the Board of Education for their consent to the discontinuance of any existing voluntary school as though it were a school provided by them, and the authority shall not be under any obligation to make an arrangement under this section in respect of any school to the discontinuance of which the consent of the Board of Education has been obtained, but no such discontinuance shall take effect before the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and eight."

The subsequent Amendment of Viscount St. Aldwyn did not restrain the local authority further; on the contrary, it untied the local authority a degree more. He felt with Viscount Llandaff that there were other considerations to be taken into account beyond those provided for. These he had attempted to indicate in the Amendment which he had placed on the Paper to secure that regard should be had "to the interest of secular instruction, to the wishes of the parents as to the education (including religious education) of their children, and to the economy of the rates." If the Committee did not decide on Clause 3 to give the facilities which would meet the case Viscount St. Aldwyn would at a later date move his Amendment (the second proviso), which otherwise would not be needful. Should the Committee decide neither in favour of general facilities nor in favour of what the noble Viscount proposed, he and many others would feel that it was necessary to find some method of equitable protection, and, like Lord Camperdown, he would reserve his right to move his Amendment.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH referred to the necessity of guarding against the suppression of small schools in the name of efficiency and economy. Educational efficiency from the point of view of some local authorities meant a large central school which tended eventually to a cast-iron system. There were obvious advantages in concentration; but size was not necessarily an indication of merit or success. What was wanted was variety of type in our schools; the last thing wanted was rigid uniformity the ill-effects of which had been seen in their intermediate schools. He hoped that such words as Lord Camperdown desired would be inserted at a later stage of the Bill.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN, in deference to private pressure from various quarters, moved to insert words towards the end of the Amendment providing that on the appeal to the Board of Education the Board should come to its decision "after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case."

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

"To insert, after the words 'and the Board may,' the words 'after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said that the words were vague, and gave no real guide to the Board. Their insertion, therefore, would not help the case at all.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON said the fate of the slum schools was involved in this matter. These schools were carried on at great self-sacrifice on the part of the managers and teachers, and the influence they exercised on the locality was untold. They were saving Christianity and moulding character in the slums. He was afraid that if the only question to be considered was whether or not there was room elsewhere for the children attending them these schools would be absorbed by the large board schools. To avoid that contingency he suggested the inclusion in Viscount St. Aldwyn's Amendment of the following words which the Bishop of Southwark had put on the Amendment Paper—

"The Board of Education in deciding whether their consent shall be given shall have regard to the interest of secular instruction, to the wishes of the parents as to the education (including the religious education) of their children, and to the economy of the rates."

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN, referring to the remarks of Viscount Llandaff, thought there was less danger of either Roman Catholic or Jewish schools being unfairly treated by an education authority than schools of the Church of England. In following the debates on the Bill in the House of Commons he noticed with some surprise that even the strongest Radicals were in favour of allowing special facilities for religious instruction to Roman Catholics and Jews, while they denied them to the Church of England. Personally he had no objection to the inclusion of the Bishop of Southwark's words in his Amendment; but he would point out there was a danger that in specifying these particular things they might exclude from the consideration of the Board of Education something not named which the Board ought to take into account in dealing with the whole matter.

LORD ASHBOURNE thought it would be wiser to put in some such words as suggested, otherwise the only point which would have to be taken into consideration was whether there was in a particular district sufficient room in the council schools to accommodate the whole of the children now being educated in the voluntary schools.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY suggested, as an addition to the Earl of Camperdown's Amendment, directing the Board of Education to take into consideration all the circumstances of the case, the words—

"Including the wishes of the parents and the opportunities for religious instruction in the district."

He was afraid that without some such safeguard the local authorities would point to the existence of a provided school in the locality as a sufficient reason for refusing to take over a voluntary school.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I beg to suggest to the Committee that the simplest solution of this difficulty is that we should support the Bishop of London's Amendment to the Amendment of the noble Viscount behind me. Those words really give effect to what I understand to be the intention of the Committee. We had already agreed on this side to accept words under which a school could be refused if it could be shown that it was not required for the accommodation of the district. I take it that none of us intended that that merely meant a counting of heads, and that the accommodation would be held to be sufficient if there were in the district enough school places to receive all the children in that district. What I think we did mean was what is embodied in the right rev. Prelate's Amendment. The noble Viscount behind me suggested that there was some danger that in mentioning these three particular points we might, as it were, give a direction to the Board of Education, to ignore all other points. That, I think, could be cured by altering the words of the right rev. Prelate into the following form—

> "The Board may, after considering all the circumstances of the case, including the interests of secular instruction, the wishes of the parents as to education (including the religious education) of their children, and the economy of the rates," etc.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said there were now three or four Amendments jostling each other for the attention of the Committee; and, in order to clear the situation somewhat, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES put the question that the Archbishop of Canterbury's Amendment down to the words "they may appeal to the Board of Education, and the Board," be inserted in the clause.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES: I will now put the words in the Bishop of Southwark's Amendment, amended in accordance with the Marquess of Lansdowne's suggestion. The words proposed to be inserted after the words "and the Board" are—

> "may, after considering all the circumstances of the case, including the interests of secular instruction, the wishes of the parents as to education (including religious education) of their children, and the economy of the rates."

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I have really very little to add on this matter to what I said yesterday. So far as the original Amendment of the noble Viscount is concerned, of course we could not object to the insertion of that, because it is a distinct improvement on the clause as it stood; but it is impossible for us to agree to the insertion of the further words proposed by the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of London. Those words are, as many of your Lordships know, taken from Section 9 of the Act of 1902, and the Board of Education, therefore, has had some distinct experience as to how they work.

I do not know—perhaps some noble Lords opposite may be able to tell me—what the experience of the former President of the Board of Education was, but I know what the experience of my right hon. friend the present President of that Board is. Mr. Birrell tells me what he has already, I think, told the House of Commons, that, of all his duties, there is none which it is so impossible for him to exercise owing to the actual conditions of the case. What is it that you have to decide in a case of this kind? You have to have regard to the interests of secular instruction. That, of course, is covered by the words of the noble Viscount. Then you have to consider the wishes of parents as to the school being recognised, and the interests of the rates. It stands to reason that the parents want the school to go on; that is invariably the case. It also follows that the rates will suffer in consequence. Therefore you have got to decide between two incompatible things. It really takes you no further than if the President of the Board of Education were told to decide the matter as he pleases. It is as though it were a matter of critical foreign policy, and the Secretary of State were told he had to regard the advantages of remaining at peace on the one hand, and the advantages of going to war on the other. What happens, of course, is that the President of the Board of Education decides the matter according to what he considers fair, but he is in no conceivable way helped by these words. They only really hamper him in arriving at what he might consider to be a rational conclusion, and the form that conclusion takes simply depends on the degree to which the different considerations are impressed on the mind of the President at the time. If you have a President of the Board of Education who considers that the wishes of the parents are always paramount he will decide in their favour, although it may be a matter of some hundred pounds charge to the rates. If you have a President who thinks that £300 or £400 on the rates is a very important matter and the wishes of parents comparatively an unimportant matter, he, it seems to me, is bound to decide in the contrary sense. The thing practically takes you no further, and my right hon. friend has asked me to say that, so far as the conduct of his Department is concerned, he would find it impossible to act on the directions contained in these words if your Lordships insist upon inserting them in the Bill.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY considered that all these questions were of vital interest, and must be treated as such by every President of the Board of Education, no matter what might be his private views. He had never found any difficulty in administering the Act of 1902, while President of the Board, and he thought the insertion of these words was desirable. He did not for a moment compare himself in ability with the present President of the Board of Education, and if he could administer the Act he did not understand why such a much abler man like Mr. Birrell could not do so.

On Question, "That those words be there inserted," their Lordships divided: Contents, 197; Not-Contents, 52.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Beaufort, D.
Bedford, D.
Grafton, D.
Leeds, D.
Newcastle, D.
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Somerset, D.
Wellington, D.

Abergavenny, M.
Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Bristol, M.
Bute, M.
Cholmondeley, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Linlithgow, M.
Salisbury, M.
Winchester, M.
Zetland, M.

Abingdon, E.
Albemarle, E.
Ashburnham, E.
Bathurst, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carnwath, E.
Cathcart, E.
Cawdor, E.
Clarendon, E.
Dartrey, E.
De La Warr, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Doncaster, E. (*E. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Eldon, E.
Feversham, E.
Halsbury, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Harewood, E.
Harrowby, E.
Huntingdon, E.
Ilchester, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Lathom, E.
Lindsey, E.
Londesborough, E.
Lucan, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Nelson, E.
Northbrook, E.
Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.
Plymouth, E.
Powis, E.
Radnor, E.
Romney, E.
Rosse, E.
Shaftesbury, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Westmorland, E.
Wharncliffe, E.
Wicklow, E.
Winchilsea and Nottingham, E.
Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Cross, V.
Falkland, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Iveagh, V.
Knutsford, V.
Llandaff, V.
Portman, V.
Ridley, V.
St. Aldwyn, V.

Bangor, L. Bp.
Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Birmingham, L. Bp.
Bristol, L. Bp.
Chester, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Durham, L. Bp.
Exeter, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. Bp.
St. Albans, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
St. David's, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Abinger, L.
Alington, L.
Alverstone, L.
Ampthill, L.
Armstrong, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Ashcombe, L.
Atkinson, L
Avebury, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Barrymore, L.
Basing, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Blythswood, T.
Bolton, L.
Borthwick, L.
Braye, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfoot, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Cheylesmore, L.
Clanwilliam, L. (*E.Clanwilliam.*
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De L'Isle and Dudley, L.
de Ros, L.
Deramore, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunleath, L.
Ebury, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Esctourt, L.
Faber, L.
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Harlech, L.
Hatherton, L.
Heneage, L.
Hindlip, L.
Hylton, L.
Kelvin, L.

Kenlis, L. (*M. Headfort.*)
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kesteven, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Errol.*)
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Knaresborough, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Llangattock, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners, L.
Methuen, L.
Middleton, L.
Minster, L. (*M. Conyngham.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Mowbray, L.
Muncaster, L.
Newton, L.
North, L.
Northbourne, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ormonde, L. (*M. Ormonde.*)
Poltimore, L.
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Ravensworth, L.
Robertson, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sandys, L.
Scarsdale, L.
Seaton, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Langford.*)
Somerhill, L. (*M. Clanricarde.*)
Stanmore, L.
Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Teynham, L.
Trevor, L.
Waleran, L.
Wenlock, L.

## NOT-CONTENTS.

Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)

Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)
Northampton, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Chichester, E.
Craven, E.
Fortescue, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Russell, E.
Temple, E.

Althorpe, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Boston, L.
Brassey, L.
Burghclere, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Davey, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Elgin, L. (*E. Elgin and Kincardine.*)
Eversley, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
Grimthorpe, L.
Hamilton of Dalzell, L.
Haversham, L.
Hemphill, L.
Joicey, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Loch, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Monkswell, L.
Monson, L.
Nunburnholme, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Overtoun, L.
Pirrie, L.
Reay, L.
Rendel, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Saye and Sele, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton.*)
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Weardale, L.
Welby, L.

**The LORD ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY**: I presume the Lord Chairman will now put the remaining words of my Amendment, viz.—

> "if they think fit, appoint a date at which the school shall cease to be recognised, and the authority shall be under no obligation to continue any such school under this section."

**The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES**: I will put that.

On Question, remaining words of Amendment agreed to.

**Lord BARNARD** moved an Amendment to sub-section (2) to provide that the power of the owners of voluntary school houses subject to charitable trusts to make and carry out arrangements under the sub-section should be "subject to the approval of the Board of Education." He said that as far as his experience went the Bill introduced an entirely new principle in connection with charitable trusts, namely, that trustees or persons in whom property was vested upon certain specific trusts should have power, without any controlling or supervising authority whatever, to enter into any agreements they chose to divert that property to some purpose totally different from that for which it was originally intended. Having spoken on the subject on a previous occasion, he did not intend to elaborate his argument at any length, but he wished to emphasise the fact that trusts, whether for charitable or any other purposes, could not, as the law now stood, be altered at the will of the trustees. In former days the Equity Courts alone had jurisdiction to sanction such alterations; subsequently that jurisdiction was transferred to the Charity Commission. What the reason for that might be he left to their Lordships to decide in their own minds, but it was clear to him that the public required to be protected from improvident or improper diversions of trusts to purposes perhaps wholly at variance with those for which they were originally intended.

There had already been some discussion in the course of the debate as to the meaning of the word "owners," and the noble and learned Lord, Lord Davey, had made some remarks upon the selection of trustees. But one important fact in connection with the trusts of these schools had been constantly overlooked, namely, that a very large number of them were not vested in bodies of trustees at all, but in trustees who held the bare legal estate—generally the incumbent and churchwardens. He had been able to secure a copy of a valuable and important document which, although it had been laid on the table of the other House, had not been presented to their Lordships' House, and it certainly seemed a curious thing that they should be asked to legislate upon so important a subject as charitable trusts affecting elementary schools, without being given the information which was in the possession of His Majesty's Government. The document was one of a series of Returns, and it showed that a very large number of schools in the two counties with which it dealt—Berkshire and Buckinghamshire—were held on trust by the incumbent and churchwardens. He assumed, therefore, that for the purposes of this Act, the incumbent and churchwardens would be the owners, and he asked their Lordships who were familiar with incumbents and churchwardens, especially in out-of-the-way rural parishes, whether they were fit and proper persons to judge of the legal nature of a document such as an arrangement under this Bill, or whether they would be competent to say that by entering into such an arrangement they would be carrying out *cy-près* the trust reposed in them. Doubtless the argument would be used that they must trust the incumbent and churchwardens. Noble Lords opposite, however, were not in all cases prepared to trust such a body as that, and even if they were ready to do so in this case, it was only due to their Lordships that the Government should state why under the present circumstances such an extraordinary amount of confidence was to be placed in a body of that nature, which up to the present the Legislature had not seen fit to confide in them, and which, as far as his experience went, they were not at all anxious to assume. As a rule, such a body of trustees, whether of a rural school or of an ordinary town school, would themselves be the first to admit that they were not competent to say whether by an arrangement offered to them by the local education authority they would be carrying out *cy-près* their trusts or not. Hitherto the body entrusted with the duty of approving schemes for the alteration of trusts had been the Charity Commission, but by an Order in Council under a comparatively recent Act of Parliament that duty had been transferred to the Board of Education; therefore he submitted to their Lordships that the Board of Education should be the body to say to trustees whether or not they might safely and properly accept such arrangements as might be offered them by the local education authorities. The trusts would not be easy to carry out under the altered circumstances of the case, but from his own experience he knew perfectly well that it was practicable to give effect to the original intentions of the donor under the most varied and altered circumstances. The local education authority, who would be the other party to the bargain, would doubtless have interests to some extent opposed to those of the trustees, and there ought to be, as had been the practice in this country hitherto, some controlling authority who should supervise any such drastic Amendments as that about to be proposed.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I think perhaps it might save time if I interrupted the noble Lord, though I apologise for doing so. It is obvious that there is no objection to the insertion of his words "with the approval of the Board of Education," as they were originally in the Bill and were only struck out by the acceptance of an Amendment in the fourth line of Clause 2 which governed the whole of the clause. The noble Lord is therefore quite right, from our point of view, in inserting them here.

LORD BARNARD: Then I will say no more, but simply move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 16, after the word 'power,' to insert the words 'subject to the approval of the Board of Education.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

Lord ASHBOURNE was glad to gather that the noble Earl did not object to the Amendment, as he was not at all sure the words were not needed in the second sub-section.

*The Earl of CREWE: I was speaking only of the words "subject to the approval of the Board of Education."

Lord ASHBOURNE said that was the point with which he was dealing. What had been already dealt with was sub-section (1) of Clause 2. That was complete in itself. His noble friend Lord Barnard, who was so familiar with this subject and a master of all its details, was dealing with sub-section (2), which was quite a different thing. It was a new departure. All through a distinction was drawn between trusts that were charitable trusts and those that were not. Sub-section (1) dealt with non-charitable trusts, but this Amendment dealt with a new point under sub-section (2), viz., with school houses subject to charitable trusts. In that sub-section there was an omission which the noble Lord sought to correct by bringing in what the noble Earl the Lord President of the Council was quite right in saying was in the sub-section (1), and which doubtless he thought governed the present case and rendered the Amendment unnecessary. It would be seen however that his noble friend was quite justified in wishing to see the words introduced in sub-section (2), which dealt with another matter altogether. He desired to draw the noble Earl's attention to the curious construction of this clause with reference to trusts. The question of trusts had attracted an enormous amount of attention, and rightly so, because the scope of the Bil under discussion would permit a wide departure from existing charitable trusts and enable trustees who, he would not say desired to betray them, but were careless or negligent of their trusts, to hand over the school houses to be dealt with as they thought right. The Government, in drafting the Bill, seemed to have had present in their minds three classes of trustees. First of all, there was the owner, who was the trustee of a school house on his own property—a comparatively small class. Then came those dealt with under sub-clause (b) of sub-section (1), which had reference to trusts not consistent with the conduct or management of schools as public elementary schools. Those were put aside altogether; they were a class which could not be touched. The Government would no doubt be told, at soon as the Bill passed, if they had not already been informed, that it left the widest possible scope for the intervention of the Courts of law. His experience was that the more they tried to keep out the Courts the more certain the Courts were to come in. As there was no authority named in the Bill to decide whether or not trusts were consistent with the conduct or management of the school as a public elementary school, any one who wished to appeal would have to go to the Courts of law which were left open for that purpose. One could see an interesting professional vista in reference to that particular point. The third class of trustees were those connected with charitable trusts, and these were left in an extremely curious position. This sub-clause would give power to the trustees with the approval of the Board of Education to deal as they pleased with the school house, and it was laid down in Clause 9 that in any case where trustees had not been complacent and had not agreed to hand over their trust the Commission could be invited by the local education authority to come in and make a scheme. That clause was not yet under discussion, but he thought it would be worth while before the Report stage to consider whether any party aggrieved by the action of the trustees in handing over the school house should not be given a right of appeal to the Commissioners, who should be empowered to exercise their discretion in considering whether such an arrangement should be allowed or a scheme framed.

Lord FITZMAURICE said that as the principal question would arise on a subsequent Amendment he would reserve his reply to the noble and learned Lord who had just spoken.

Lord ASHBOURNE: I understand the noble Earl accepts Lord Barnard's Amendment?

*The Earl of CREWE: Yes.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD BARNARD moved to substitute "an" for "any," in sub-section (2), so that the owners of the school house should have power to make and carry out "an" arrangement under the section. He said that the word "any" almost invited the trustees of a school house subject to charitable trusts to go as far as they liked in departing from their original trusts. Having had some experience of drafting he could not understand the use of "any" where the word "an" would be amply sufficient for all purposes. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 17, to leave out the word 'any,' and to insert the word 'an.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I do not profess to be an authority on drafting, and if the noble Lord prefers the word "an" to the word "any" I certainly do not desire to raise any objection.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD BARNARD moved the omission of the words in sub-section (2) after the word "section," in order to insert—"Provided that such arrangement includes, as far as may be, having regard to the altered circumstances of the case, adequate provisions for the preservation of such trusts, and for the protection of the endowment subject thereto." Dealing first with the words he proposed to omit, he could not understand why, in a Bill intended to enable local authorities to acquire school houses for the purpose of providing a fixed education throughout the country, Parliament should go out of its way to give trustees of school houses subject to charitable trusts certain additional powers. In some cases—he believed in a large number of cases—the powers proposed to be conferred by the latter portion of the section already existed. According to the Return to which he had already referred, the National Society's model deed granted powers very similar to those here proposed, and the trustees were permitted to grant the use of the buildings as a place of meeting, for clerical meetings, district visitors, charitable or benevolent purposes, and so on. But in other places those powers did not exist, though there was no doubt whatever they were tacitly exercised. He once heard a very distinguished man ask in reference to a question of this kind, "Does the trust deed say they should not do it?" and on a reply being given in the negative he said, "Then there is no reason why they should not." Therefore there was no necessity to give this statutory power if the use of the buildings for such purposes was not actually forbidden, while if it was actually forbidden by the trust it was a wanton breach of the trust to empower the trustees to use the buildings for purposes for which they were never intended. It would be much safer to leave the matter as it now stood. Let those who had the power or were not debarred by their trust deeds from doing so exercise their discretion in the matter, but there was no reason why the power should be given to those whose trust deeds distinctly forbad it. As to the words he proposed to insert, he frankly admitted they were not altogether satisfactory from a drafting point of view. He was sufficiently acquainted with drafting to know how extremely difficult it was, unless one had been conversant with the whole framework of the document it was proposed to amend, to frame words which should exactly meet the necessities of the case; therefore he was not wedded to the particular form of words on the Paper, and would be prepared to withdraw them in favour of any proposal the Government or other members of the Committee might prefer to meet the same end. As the most rev. Primate had said, it was most desirable that their Lordships and the public—the ignorant, uneducated public, as well as the lawyers—should know precisely by words in the Bill what was intended. For that reason he thought the Bill ought to point out to trustees under charitable trusts that they were not at liberty to ignore their trusts, but that they must do their utmost in the arrangements made by them, which would now be subject to the approval of the Board of Education, to preserve the original intentions of the donors of the land and buildings, which in his view had a money value and were therefore endowments within the meaning of the

Charitable Trusts Act. Lord Fitzmaurice had suggested that if the trustees found themselves in any difficulty they should go to the Charity Commission—probably he meant the Board of Education—to get a scheme. But as these arrangements were to be only temporary, lasting for five years, that would be a very unnecessary business; nor, if the arrangement contained no provision for the protection of the charity, did he see exactly what use it would be from the point of view of the local education authority. They would get the use of the school, and that being so it seemed that the principle to be adopted was, "As long as we get the use of the school we do not care what becomes of the charitable trust." Unless something in the direction of his proposal were inserted, there would be very grave danger that property, originally deliberately given by benevolent and generous men and women for certain specific purposes, would in course of time be lost to those purposes. Therefore he begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, to leave out from the word 'section' to the end of the sub-section, and insert, 'Provided that such arrangement includes, as far as may be, having regard to the altered circumstances of the case, adequate provisions for the preservation of such trusts, and for the protection of the endowment subject thereto.'"—(*Lord Barnard.*)

*LORD FITZMAURICE said his noble friend the Lord President of the Council had accepted the first Amendment of the noble Lord because he was very anxious to meet his views as far as possible, and because in his opinion so far as that sub-section was concerned it was possible to accept the Amendment as it stood, and to insert the fiat of the Board of Education in these cases. But by accepting that Amendment his noble friend did not in any way commit himself to accept the further Amendment now moved. If that Amendment were accepted there could be no doubt whatever that what might be called the region of difficulty in making arrangements would be very greatly extended. He would explain to the Committee why that would be so. He could not accept, if he understood it correctly, the argument of the noble and learned Lord Ashbourne that they were dealing with three classes of schools or endowments. This clause clearly distinguished between private ownership and schools to which charitable trusts were attached. If the Amendment of the noble Lord were accepted, in order to bring schools with educational trusts within the purview of an arrangement, and in order to get that arrangement ratified, it would be necessary, not only to comply with the conditions laid down in the Bill as it stood, after the adoption of the Amendments of the most rev. Prelate and Lord Heneage in regard to the Commission and its jurisdiction, but to be assured that the parties were obtaining satisfaction for any interest which might be considered to come within the rather broad net of the proposal now before the Committee. How exactly did the noble Lord intend finally to enforce an arrangement of this kind? As he understood it, if these words were added, it would be necessary for the Board of Education, before the powers of the Commission came into play, to be satisfied in every case, in the fullest possible manner, that all these outstanding trusts were satisfied. Further, if the interpretation of the noble and learned Lord was correct, they would even have to go outside any immediately educational trust and inquire whether there were any outstanding interests which might be described as being of a charitable though not of an educational character. He was not going to ask the Committee to take his opinion against that of the noble and learned Lord, but he would be somewhat surprised if other noble and learned Lords held that view; he thought it would not bear examination. As a matter of fact, this and subsequent clauses of the Bill depended entirely upon the words in lines 16 and 17 of sub-section (2). They were dealing with the use of the school, not with the property and buildings, and the Board of Education was to be compelled to go into all these matters. The first result of the Amendment would be immediately to make it very difficult, if not actually impossible, for the second object of the clause to be carried out, namely, that the use of the school house should under certain circumstances be given in consideration of a payment or free of charge "for any purposes of public or social utility." Did the noble Lord mean that? If the Amendment were adopted by the Committee it might become necessary for his noble friend to reconsider at a later stage the concession he had already made to the noble Lord, because the earlier Amendment was only accepted, with some little doubt, from the desire of the Government to meet the views of the noble Lord as far as possible. But the words now proposed went much further, though not so far as the noble Lord imagined. Possibly the noble Lord had been a little misled by the use in Clause 9, line 34, of the word "trusts." Its use there might have led the noble Lord to think that the expression was of general application to all trusts whether educational or charitable in a sense wider than educational. Therefore he could not help hoping that if the noble Lord thought there were dangers—which he (Lord Fitzmaurice) did not admit to exist—of reckless dealing with trusts in the arrangements he would consider whether it would not be better to qualify the word 'trusts" when they reached Clause 9, line 34, by making it perfectly clear that the expression had reference to those limited trusts which related to the use of the buildings, that being the only thing which this second sub-section proposed to make the subject of an arrangement, rather than drag in the Board of Education. He could quite understand that in a necessarily complicated provision in a Bill dealing with a very complicated subject a misunderstanding might have arisen on the point, and therefore he hoped the noble Lord would not press the Amendment.

Lord ASHBOURNE thought the noble Lord could not have listened attentively to the Lord President's statement on Lord Barnard's first Amendment. As he understood, the noble Earl's position was that the Amendment was not needed, because it was already in an earlier part of the clause, and therefore only carried out what had all through been the intention of the Government. The noble Lord now appeared to suggest that the Amendment was only accepted after balancing and with some doubt.

*Lord FITZMAURICE said that naturally they did not, and necessarily could not, know what course the noble Lord intended to adopt. What the Lord President and he had said was perfectly consistent. He had merely pointed out that the whole situation would be entirely altered if a wide extension was given to the words "subject to the approval of the Board of Education" by the importation of entirely new words which had nothing whatever to do with the words when they appeared at the beginning of the clause.

Lord ASHBOURNE said he had nothing more to say in reference to that matter. As to the Amendment under discussion, although he had listened to the noble Lord with all the respect to which his astuteness and ability entitled him, he could not see what the objection was. The proposal seemed such obvious common sense. It was desired to take a school house subject to charitable trusts. Lord Barnard had pointed out that considerable violence might be done to the original purposes of the trust, and therefore the Amendment, recognising that the school house was to be taken for public purposes simply said, "Take the school house and make it a public elementary school under the Act of Parliament, but do not go any further. Let the trust stand as far as everything else is concerned, interfering with it only to the extent demanded by the Act of Parliament." As the noble Lord appeared to think it would involve a roving inquiry and an exhaustive examination into all the other trusts of the property, he was quite prepared to accept any other form of words. If, in order to bring up an accurate and precise statement of the intentions of the clause, it was thought desirable to let the matter stand over for further consideration, no doubt his noble friend would agree, but as matters stood he could not see any ground for hostility to the proposal.

*The Earl of CREWE: The noble Lord's Amendment divides itself into two distinct parts. He proposes to leave out certain words of ours and to insert certain words of his own. With regard to the words he proposes to leave out, I understand he objects on purely technical grounds to our taking any notice of or dealing in any way with the use to which the school house is put at times when it is not used as an elementary school. Under this Bill we take the school house during certain hours for a public elementary school, and at other times, speaking generally, the purposes of the trusts are to be maintained. The noble Lord thinks that by inserting the provision that the school house may be used "for any purposes of public or social utility," we are doing something which he would not say was objectionable in itself, but which might afford a dangerous precedent for dealing with trusts generally. I am not sufficiently a lawyer to know what weight ought to be attached to that purely technical objection, but, whatever weight is attached to it, it seems to me that the practical advantages are so great that the objection ought to be overridden. As a matter of fact, these schools are now continually being used for purposes of "public or social utility" by the clergy of the parishes and with leave of the trustees—for purposes which certainly do not form part of the object of the trusts.

Lord BARNARD pointed out that the model deed of the National Society did in many cases enable the school houses to be so used.

*The Earl of CREWE: There are probably other schools the trusts of which do not contain such a provision, but which nevertheless are used for purposes not mentioned in the trust. Therefore I cannot think it otherwise than pedantic to object to the inclusion of this provision, which everybody agrees is desirable in itself. I feel very strongly that it would be a misfortune to strike out these words which would legalise what has been the common practice, and I cannot think that any substantial harm will be done to the sacred principle of trusts by permitting the use of school houses out of school hours for objects which we all agree ought to be encouraged. As regards the words proposed to be inserted, I must confirm the statement of my noble friend behind me (Lord Fitzmaurice) that the insertion of these words would put a very different complexion upon the necessity of obtaining the approval of the Board of Education. If the noble Lord means that the approval of the Board of Education is to be obtained under such vague circumstances as are implied by the words of his Amendment—"having regard to the altered circumstances of the case," and matters of that kind—I should certainly not be able to agree to their permanent insertion in this clause. I speak with all the deference due to the superior knowledge of the noble Lord, but the words, "having regard to the altered circumstances of the case" seem to me to admit dangerous possibilities in dealing with trusts. They are quite unfamiliar words in matters of this kind, and the Board of Education could not take the responsibility of considering what weight ought in any given instance to be attached to them, involving, as it would, an amount of inquiry into the whole of the circumstances surrounding a school which the Board of Education could not undertake to make. I fear, therefore, that it is impossible for us to accept this Amendment, though I most readily acknowledge the great moderation with which the noble Lord moved it, and I sympathise to a great extent with the object he has in view.

Lord BURGHCLERE was inclined to agree with his noble friend that it was desirable that these words should not be inserted, but when he looked at the benches opposite he thought it was extremely likely that the wishes of his noble friend would not be carried into effect. He suggested, therefore, that if the provision was to be inserted, it would be better to put it at the end of the clause as a proviso, allowing the words already there to stand. If that were done, the Bill would still provide for the use of the school house for purposes of which all approved, and the clause would be more readable than if the latter portion was omitted.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: The Amendment of my noble friend

Lord Barnard consists of two parts. He desires that the Committee should accept his proviso requiring that as far as may be regard should be paid to the trusts under which the school is held, and he also proposes to omit the latter portion of the sub-section as it stands in the Bill. I have a great feeling of sympathy with the proviso of the noble Lord, and I do not see why some such words should not be inserted, but I do not quite see why the acceptance of the proviso should carry with it the omission of the whole of the latter part of the sub-section.

LORD BARNARD: I do not think the two of necessity hang together.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am glad the noble Lord agrees with me. Most of your Lordships would regard the latter part of the sub-section as a reasonable proposal which we should be sorry to see omitted. It is a proposal to the effect that the owners of the school, when the local authority does not require the use of the school buildings, should be able themselves to use those buildings for various useful social or public purposes. That seems to me to be a moderate and reasonable proposal, and I should be sorry to see it omitted. I would ask my noble friend whether it would not be possible to retain these words and at the same time propose to add some other words to the effect that, so far as practicable, regard should in all these matters be paid to the purposes of the trust.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY hoped that the noble Lord would not persist in the Motion to omit the words of the sub-section, and agreed with what the noble Marquess (Lord Lansdowne) had said. It was no partisan question and on the ground of general utility it was better that the words of the sub-section should stand.

LORD BARNARD, in deference to the wishes expressed in various parts of the House, asked leave to withdraw his Amendment. His reason for moving it was that he thought it was a pity unnecessarily to introduce extra powers not absolutely required for purposes of this kind. In some cases the trustees already had this power and in other cases they were not forbidden to have it.

LORD ASHBOURNE: I understand that the noble Lord only desires to withdraw that part of his Amendment which omits the words of the sub-section, and to add his proviso at the end of the sub-section.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, to leave out the words from the word 'section' to the end of the sub-section."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 25, at end of sub-section to insert the words, 'Provided that such arrangement includes as far as may be, having regard to the altered circumstances of the case, adequate provisions for the preservation of such trusts, and for the protection of the endowment subject thereto.'"

Agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3:—

VISCOUNT HALIFAX said he had given notice of an Amendment to page 3, line 1, at the beginning of the clause to insert the following words—

"Every public elementary school shall have three or more managers, elected by the parents of the children attending the school, in accordance with a scheme prescribed by the Board of Education. The religious instruction, if any, given in the school shall be under the control of the managers. It shall be the duty of the local education authority to afford reasonable facilities for the giving of such religious instruction within the ordinary hours of school attendance, provided that no part of the expense of such religious instruction be paid by the local education authority. Any question between the managers and the local education authority as to the mode and times in which these facilities are afforded shall be determined by the Board of Education. The consent of the managers shall be required to the appointment of teachers."

The object of the Amendment was to place the responsibility for religious instruction in every school in a body of managers elected by the parents. It seemed to him that, if they were to regard the rights of parents and the liberty of conscience, the persons who had the right to decide what religious instruction should be given to their children were the parents and not the local authority. He did not suppose that any of their Lordships would submit to any dictation in regard to the religious instruction which they wished to be given to their children, and if that were the case, he did not understand why the right they claimed for themselves should be denied to their poorer brethren. Further, what was aimed at by this Amendment answered a question that was asked by the noble Earl in charge of the Bill the other night in reference to the Amendment carried by their Lordships' House as to who would provide the religious instruction which that House insisted should be given in the schools. If what he aimed at by this Amendment were carried, the answer would be "The body of managers appointed by the parents." They would be the persons who would provide the religious instruction. He should think that there were great advantages in the Amendment he proposed. In the first place, if adopted, it would avoid the chances of local electoral conflicts being influenced by the religious question. They must all be anxious to have the religious question eliminated from the matter of education. Nothing could be more disastrous than the prospect of local electoral contests being influenced and decided by religious considerations. If the religious education in the schools were placed at the discretion of a body of managers elected by the parents the chances of that extremely objectionable contingency would be eliminated. In the next place, supposing that what was aimed at by the Amendment were adopted in all schools, it would obviate the necessity for Clause 4, and he should have imagined that that was a consideration which would not have been altogether ungrateful to the Minister for Education and to His Majesty's Government. In the next place, if his memory served him aright, it was proposed by the Opposition in reference to the Bill of 1902 that the body of managers should be elected by the parents. That was the proposal embodied in his Amendment, and he could not understand why His Majesty's Government should find any difficulty in accepting it. He would admit, however, that the wording of the Amendment was not as clear, perhaps, as it ought to be, and that it might seem—although it was not his intention—to give the body of managers control over the secular part of the education in the school. That was not his desire; he was willing and anxious that the local authority should have complete control of all the secular part of the education. All he desired was that the religious education should be under the control of a body of managers appointed by the parents and removed from the discretion of the local authority. As it had been represented to him that the words of his Amendment were not as clear as they might be, and that he would have opportunities at a later stage of the discussion of bringing forward his point, he thought he would facilitate the discussion by abstaining from moving the Amendment.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he had given notice of an Amendment to the clause, but the subject with which it dealt suffered under one great disadvantage in discussion in their Lordships' House, in that it was peculiarly difficult to find many noble Lords who were able to look at it with absolute impartiality. He was afraid, for instance, that one who from the Episcopal Bench might strive to persuade others that he looked at it with complete impartiality, would not be able to persuade them very successfully. Therefore when he found that an Amendment similar to, though certainly not identical with, that he had intended to propose stood in the name of one who in a singular degree combined those qualifications which were wanted for approaching the subject impartially, he felt he should be wise to leave it in his hands. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who was about to propose an Amendment, was a Presbyterian, and he imagined had comparatively few adherents among the owners of denominational schools in this country; he had an experience almost unique, having been the head of a Government education department in the northern part of the island; and he was well known to possess the qualification of being able to look at large questions impartially. In these circumstances he (the most rev. Prelate) did not desire to move the Amendment, knowing the matter was safe in the hands of the noble Lord.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH said that when he took the step of putting this Amendment upon the Paper he made up his mind that the first thing he would have to do when he moved it was almost to ask their Lordships' pardon for venturing to intrude in a discussion of this kind, which, after all, did not in any way concern him directly. His feeling of responsibility and his desire to make an apology to the Committee had been infinitely increased by the more than kind words which the most rev. Prelate had just spoken regarding him. He was quite certain that if the Committee were polled they would much rather have heard another of those moderate and statesmanlike speeches by which the most rev. Prelate had distinguished himself during these discussions. As it had fallen to him to move this Amendment, he would do so with as much consideration for their Lordships' time as he could give; but they would not be surprised when he said that he, at any rate, was under no illusion in regard to it, because he thought he might safely say that it was one of the most far-reaching Amendments which appeared on their Lordships' Paper in regard to this Bill. It was a curious claim to make, but he thought he could say that, notwithstanding the experience in educational matters which he had had elsewhere, it had never been his lot to address a meeting on any educational subject in which a majority of his audience were Englishmen, though it was not from any want of thought, not from any want of care, not from any under-rating of the importance of the subject, that he had never taken any part in the agitation which had been going on south of the Tweed. Anybody who considered any educational system must be face to face in one form or another with the very problems which were agitating the English mind at the present time, and which, not only now but throughout the history of every attempt to deal with this question, had proved a difficulty and a stumbling-block in the way of a really permanent settlement. They met these difficulties wherever they went to establish an educational system. The difficulties were the same whether they were in England, Scotland, or Ireland, but in each of those countries they solved them in a different way. They might go further and look at the continent of Europe or at the Colonies, and they would find that the same difficulties and the same problems confronted the statesmen who had to deal with educational matters. In one country they were solved in one way and in another in a different way. He knew the Scottish system, and he thought he would be able to prove to their Lordships before he sat down that he had given some thought to their English system and the English difficulty. On one point he would reassure them—he did not intend to fit into the English system that way of solving the difficulty which had been successful in Scotland. He was aware of the difference between the two countries, and he thought it would be impossible in the present state of feeling, and in view of the history of English education, to transport the Scottish system to the South of the border.

His position would be that the Amendment he proposed was not only a logical development and a legitimate sequence of the compromise of 1870, but that it had been rendered necessary by the events which had subsequently taken place. They all talked of the settlement of 1870 as a compromise, and so it was. He was not going over its history. There were statesmen on both sides of the House—the noble Marquess who now led the House, the noble Duke on the cross benches, and Viscount Goschen—all of whom were responsible in their time for the settlement of 1870. It was curious to see that although they were all agreed at that time, they took divergent views of what was now necessary to build upon that compromise and to alter it to suit the altered circumstances of the present time. The settlement of 1870 was a compromise. It was a compromise upon both the secular and the religious sides of the question. It was a compromise from the counsels of perfection of the educationists of those days, who, if he understood the position rightly, would have wished to go further in the direction of a secular school system and secular education than they were able to do. It was a compromise on the religious side, because while the public provision for education was limited by the well-known Cowper-Temple clause, the denominational schools belonging to every body of Christians who had them were allowed to remain and give their education subject to the general laws and the conditions which the Department under statutory powers laid down. That compromise was not very logical—like a great many things in British public life—but, although not logical, it worked extremely well for a long period of time. It was made to work; it was not agreeable, perhaps, to extreme partisans upon either side, but, having regard to the fact that it was a compromise and therefore a settlement, both sides agreed to do their best to work it.

That compromise had now broken down. He suggested to their Lordships that the secular side of the compromise was the first to break down. They all knew what was meant by the expression "the intolerable strain." It was the demand for increased secular education which put that intolerable strain upon the denominational schools, and great as was the voluntary effort, great as was the enthusiasm, deep as were the convictions which lay behind the efforts made, it was beyond question that the strain was too great and that voluntary effort was unable to compete with the increased demand for efficiency in secular education, and that it could not rival the improvements which were forced, partly by the logic of events and partly by the fact that they had the public purse behind them, on the Board schools of the country. On the religious side also the compromise had broken down. It was never very logical, and many of their Lordships would remember the various agitations produced by what he might term excrescences in the working of it. Many of them would remember the controversy which arose regarding London education. It was some ten or eleven years ago when some energetic person discovered that under the Cowper-Temple clause in one of the board schools in London, a teacher was giving the Unitarian version of the doctrine of the birth of our blessed Lord. That was attacked and condemned as a breach of the Cowper-Temple clause, and so undoubtedly it was. A considerable agitation arose, and then the London School Board passed a resolution that the teaching in the schools was to be confined to "the principles of the Christian religion and of public morality." That agitation, he believed, lasted as long as that Board lasted, and it ended in the selection of neutral chairmen, including Lord George Hamilton, the noble Marquess who sat near him, and the noble Lord who sat on the Bench below the gangway opposite.

Then came the attempt of the late Government to deal with the matter in 1896. That Bill was not passed; it was withdrawn soon after the Second Reading in the other House of Parliament, but it contained a clause which was very germane to the present controversy. It was not a very long clause, and he should venture to read it to their Lordships, because in conversation with many of those whom he thought would have remembered it, he found it had largely passed from their recollection. The existence of this clause was important upon another ground, because it proved to their Lordships that the proposal which he was venturing to make to-night was no new thought or inspiration on his part, nor was it a thing which had been adopted to make difficulties for His Majesty's Government or to wreck their Bill; but such thought as he had been able to give to English difficulties and English problems had convinced him that in the scheme which he suggested and in that scheme alone they would have the germs of what was a real and fair and national settlement. He knew that this clause when it was produced was not well received. There was a great deal of the beating of the big drum, and he had no doubt they would hear the echoes of that instrument before they had done with the discussion upon which they were now entering. He read these words now simply for the purpose of showing that it was no new idea, and that the Government which last sat on that Bench and whose colleague he was in 1896, then thought—and he believed in their heart of hearts still thought—that it would be possible on those lines if only everybody was reasonable—he admitted that was a large "if"—to make even now a national settlement.

Clause 27 of the Bill of 1896 read as follows—

> "One of the regulations in accordance with which a public elementary school is required to be conducted shall be that if the parents of a reasonable number of the scholars attending the school require that separate religious instruction be given to their children, the managers shall, so far as practicable, where the religious instruction in the school be regulated by any trust deed, scheme, or other instrument or not, permit reasonable arrangements to be made for allowing such religious instruction to be given and shall not be precluded from doing so by the provisions of any such deed, scheme, or instrument."

They were the germs of the very proposal he ventured, with profound conviction, to lay before their Lordships that night.

The next step in the matter was the Act of 1902. Again, like noble Lords on that bench, he was responsible for that Act. He did not wish to get out of that responsibility in the slightest degree, because he was there to say that he believed in the main—he knew some of its points were not accepted all over the country—it was an improvement and a great advance upon the educational arrangements of the country as they stood before that date. In the main it worked well and if it had not been for the antipathy, should he say the prejudices, of a large and important section of the community about the matter of giving rate aid to denominational teaching, it would have been a much greater advance in the general educational arrangements of the country than it had actually proved. He was not anxious to raise controversy, but he still thought that if that Act had been fairly worked and reasonably considered, it would never have got the bad name given to it during the last year or two. Whether it went far enough or not, whether it did all it might have done or not, there was this to be said for it, that even taking the position of the Nonconformists, taking that part of the country where there was only one class of school, there was not a single provision in that Act which did not improve their position compared with what it had been before that Act was passed.

He was not going into the question of whose fault it was that the compromise of 1870 had broken down. It was enough that it had broken down, but he must be allowed to say that it had never had such a shove downwards as was given it by the introduction of this Bill. It was not his object to raise unnecessary controversy, it was enough for his case here to say that that settlement had broken down and the question for them was, not whose fault it was, but how they could repair the damage with advantage to the country, with the increase of efficiency in secular education, and without doing mischief to the conscientious convictions of large bodies of their fellow countrymen. What they all wanted was to get a national system. The shibboleths, if he might say so without offence, which the noble Lords put before them were these, that there was to be a national system under public control and that there were to be no tests for teachers. As he had said, the difficulties were not peculiar to England. They had been solved in different ways in different countries. In the main, they had been solved in one of three ways. First, a complete secular system which had some, but he thought not many, advocates in this country. Secondly, there was the system of perfect freedom to local authorities, which gave complete popular control without the restrictions of the Cowper-Temple clause. They had that system in Scotland because their circumstances were fortunate and they were able to work it. Thirdly, there was the other system under which there must be some sort of compromise by keeping secular education up to a uniform standard and religious education under some sort of restrictions, to avoid doing harm to the different opinions of the various denominations. He dismissed for the moment any idea of the secular system, because, as had been said in the other House of Parliament and in their Lordships' House, there was at the present time not many found to support it. In his opinion the Scottish system was not suitable to English circumstances, and he refrained from developing the reason. Therefore, they were shut up to this, that if they wanted to get a national system and if it was to be as they all admitted it was to be, under public control, they must take up and build upon the foundation which was laid in 1870, and develop the system which was then arranged.

He placed this proposal before their Lordships not as a revolution, but as the legitimate and logical outcome of what had been done before. He knew he should be told that he was repealing the Cowper-Temple clause. He was proposing to do nothing of the kind. The Cowper-Temple clause as their Lordships knew better than he did, was not, as it was sometimes described, Cowper-Temple religion. The Cowper-Temple clause was a restraining clause, and in so far as it was a restraining clause it was an offence against the doctrine of full popular control, because while it was there they were not completely trusting their local authorities. Perhaps their controversies were too acute and the divisions between the various parties and churches too deep for it to be safe to get rid altogether of the Cowper-Temple clause. He thought so. All he was proposing to do was, while leaving the restraints which were imposed under the Cowper-Temple clause to work in the future as they had worked in the past, to afford a means of easing the restrictions where they galled most, and while endeavouring to obtain unity so far as possible in the secular instruction of the children in the country, to give freedom to meet the difficulties caused by the difference of thought on religious questions. He said frankly that so far as he was personally concerned and so far as those who thought with him were concerned, what was permissible under the Cowper-Temple clause was sufficient. He made that statement that there should be no misunderstanding. But because it was sufficient for him and sufficient for some of their Lordships, that did not do away with the outstanding fact that it was not regarded as sufficient by everyone, and if they were going to do equal justice they must have regard to the conscientious convictions of all, whether they agreed with them or differed from them. It was only by giving full play to those sacred feelings that they would lay the foundations of a really national settlement in this country or in any other. What was possible under the Cowper-Temple clause as it stood? They were giving the Jewish children instruction in the Jewish religion. They were in publicly provided schools; they were subject to the Cowper-Temple clause, and yet, for excellent reasons, nobody was offended by it, and the people of that religion were satisfied with the provisions that were made. If that was possible for that nation, why was it not possible under proper restrictions and proper safeguards for our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, for the Church of England and for any others who might desire it? They were constantly being shown syllabuses: "Look how excellent it is, what more can you desire than that the children should be taught what is arranged by the London School Board, by the Hampshire County Council, or other excellent syllabuses?" The first remark he made was that it did not always follow that what was logically possible was actually done in practice. While he admitted the sufficiency of what was theoretically possible, the arguments produced by the most rev. Prelate and others were enough to show that there were grave misgivings in many parts of the country as to whether what was excellent in theory and beautiful on paper was really carried out with honesty and fairness in actual practice in the daily life of the schools. His apprehension was that if the influence of the denominational schools and the excellence of their teaching, organised and looked after by those who liked it, were withdrawn, they would do much to lower the level of the teaching that was now given under the Cowper-Temple clause. He believed that was not a fanciful danger.

But he went further. He asked the Government to try their own scheme by their own tests. Was this really a national settlement? Could it be said to be a national settlement when the representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in that House, when the representatives entitled to speak for a large portion of the Church of England, said it was not sufficient for them? If they wanted to make a really national settlement, one which would endure and take this matter out of the region of Party controversy, they must do something to meet those conscientious difficulties—they must ease the position and do their best, so far as they could, without interfering with secular efficiency, to meet the difficulties which large bodies of their fellow countrymen felt. In addition to that he asked them to try the system which he suggested by the same tests. He believed they could make it a really national settlement. It was obvious it would not in any way interfere with the fulness of public control, and, as he should show in a few moments, he believed it would be the only system which would come up to their ideal of getting rid of any tests for entrance into the teaching profession. Having regard to the necessity of meeting the views of the parents, he believed it would go further to meet the views of the larger number of parents than any other system they could devise. He hoped and believed that that House would decree that religious education wherever given, was to be given in school hours, and he hoped, so far as possible, that it would be given by the teachers who were most competent to give it. As one who cared for educational efficiency he looked with some alarm to bringing in outside persons to interfere with the discipline of the school and take the place of the teacher. The ideal system was that the whole curriculum, both religious and secular, should be, so far as possible, given by the regular teaching staff of the school. It was a second best thing if they had to bring in an outside person to do it. If they did not want that, they should not impose tests on the teachers more than were necessary. The only way they could do that fairly was, when they could not get the teacher to give the religious instruction, to get somebody from the outside who was competent to give it for them. He did not put forward the scheme as ideal, but under the circumstances in which they were placed it would, after the first confusion and the first difficulties were got over, settle down and work. He would be told that it was impossible. He did not know whether any of their Lordships had seen upon the Notice Paper an Amendment in the name of the noble Lord who was Governor of the Commonwealth of Australia. The noble Lord said that in New South Wales they had solved the problem very much in the same way as he suggested that it should be solved here.

He would endeavour to anticipate the objections which he knew would be brought forward against this scheme. He would be told that it was wrong to depend too much upon compelling local authorities, who would therefore be against it, and that the religious question would be brought into elections. If they went on with the scheme that was in the Bill or anything like it they would involve their local elections in religious questions for an unknown time to come. They were going the way to make the whole of their elections turn on these religious questions, and until they found some settlement which would meet the real and legitimate wishes of their fellow-countrymen they would find that they would not evade the religious difficulty. He was told that there would be practical difficulties in the way of his scheme. He admitted and he was glad to find that the arguments against this proposal put forward in the other House by Mr. Birrell and Mr. Lough rested upon the practical difficulties and not upon any point of principle. He did not want to make any other quotation, but Mr. Birrell, in the course of the discussion on Sir William Anson's Amendment in the House of Commons, said—

> "I am anxious that in all the schools there should be facilities given, if they can be arranged on proper terms, whereby all denominations should have ample opportunities for religious education."

Mr. Lough said very much the same thing. Dr. Macnamara, who was entitled to speak with force and efficiency for the teachers, openly said in the other place that he recognised such a proposal as extremely fair and just and logical if they were to do anything at all. His (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) position was that they could not avoid doing something for religious education. The noble Lords opposite, in their speeches in regard to Clause 1—he said nothing of the explanation of his noble friend made on the following day, because he stood upon the speech of the Marquess of Northampton—pinned themselves, with a sincerity which left in his mind nothing to be desired, to the absolute necessity of having religious education as part of the education of the country. He need not, therefore, argue the point of principle. What he had to meet was the question whether this scheme was practically possible. He had told them that in New South Wales it had been found to be practically possible. It would be answered to that that our circumstances were not the same, because we were split up into too many sects and churches, and that it would introduce what Dr. Macnamara, by a play upon words, described not as pandenominationalism but as pandemonium. Would that really be the case? What did it amount to? The Jews were congregated mostly in communities and they would cause no practical difficulty. Their Roman Catholic friends had, in a great many cases, their own schools. There might be some cases in which facilities must be provided for them, and that would have to be done. It was easy to make a list of the various churches and the various denominations which existed in this country. He put it to the common sense of those he was addressing, would it not resolve itself into this in nine cases out of ten—that even where they could not have separate schools, all they would have to provide for were Roman Catholics, the Church of England, and for those who were satisfied with Cowper-Temple teaching as a whole? He had no doubt whatever, that fanatical and perhaps stupid people would do all they could to break down such a scheme if it were passed and enacted, and that there would be difficulties, but he believed that if only the man in the street and the ordinary individual citizen of this country were satisfied that the law was fair, he would see that it was properly worked, and they would get for the first time on their side the common sense of the great body of the people to help them.

He had dealt with the question of the discipline of the schools. He hoped that the introduction of teachers from the outside would not very often be necessary. He sympathised with what had been said with regard to the feelings of the teachers on seeing the discipline of their schools interfered with, they having to stand aside when others came in. Outside teaching had this great difficulty, that it would disarrange the system in the school. They would have to divide pupils not according to the standards and ages, but according to churches. Where there was more than one teacher they did what they could, and he believed that in nine cases out of ten they would get on to their teaching staff such a difference of Church connections as would satisfy the great body of the demand made upon it. He would not, at this hour, go into what had been done in Scotland, but he had seen it done in Scotland. In some parishes, one of which he had witnessed himself, there was a division between Presbyterians and Roman Catholics, and the latter were in the majority. There was a Roman Catholic head teacher and a Presbyterian second assistant, and each of them had their staff of pupil teachers. In the morning the children filed into the school, took their places for religious teaching under the respective staffs and were divided by a glass partition through which they could see but not hear. When the time for religious education was over they filed away into the separate forms and classes just as if they were going from history to geography or from mathematics to any other subject. He felt confident that if they set their minds to work, the thing was possible and practicable, but he would also admit if they were determined it should not be worked it was hardly possible for it to succeed.

He wanted to dwell, before he sat down, upon the vexed question of tests. There were to be no tests for teachers. What was meant by that bald statement? There were to be no tests for entrance into the teaching profession. That was well and good, and he agreed with it. The great majority of their Lordships would concur, but when it was said there were to be no qualifications exacted from those who were to teach those things permissible under the Cowper-Temple clause that was another matter. Let them make the profession as open as they possibly could; let them sink all the differences they could; let them get the best teachers they could for the schools; let them do all they could to raise the *status* of the profession and to make their difficult tasks as easy as possible; but let not the teachers run away with the idea that the schools were made for them and not the teachers for the schools. They were to be the servants of the public. The profession was for the public, not the public for the profession. If it was, as he believed it to be, the overwhelming desire of the people of this country to have their education a religious education, those who entered the profession must enter it with the limitation that they must expect to conduct it under those conditions. The teaching profession was sometimes compared with the Civil Service. They might go even down to local matters. He did not care for the political or theological opinions of an ordinary Civil servant nor of the inspector of the sanitary authority who came to inspect his drains, but he did care for the religious opinions of the man who was to teach his children. Let them clear their minds of cant on this subject. Would the Roman Catholic population take a Primitive Methodist as their teacher? Would the Primitive Methodists be satisfied to take a Roman Catholic teacher? The answer was given in putting the question. It did not follow that there were to be no Roman Catholics in the teaching profession or no Primitive Methodists or none of any other Church. What they had to do was so to regulate their appointments as to make them work with as little friction as possible; to put the Church of England man where there was a Church of England majority and the others in so far as they possibly could. If they could not manage that without doing harm to those principles, then they could bring in the other principle of no tests for teachers and let there be facilities for outsiders to come in. Though not ideal, that was better than the idea of giving up religious education in any of the schools. He was told that the teaching under the restrictions of the Cowper-Temple clause was all that sensible people desired up to the age of thirteen or fourteen. He did not doubt that so far as he was personally concerned, but he wanted to put this aspect of the subject to noble Lords opposite. The better the teaching under the Cowper-Temple clause the greater their difficulty in demanding that there should be no qualification for those who should teach it.

What were the things which the syllabuses on the Table of the House showed might be taught under the Cowper-Temple clause? They were something more than mere moral principles; something more than mere ethical statements. It was nothing less than the Christian religion itself. The Apostles Creed, the document known as the Apostles Creed, appeared in some of those syllabuses. It was a statement of the great Christian verities which the overwhelming majority of those he was addressing believed. On what authority did those things rest? They were not taught upon man's authority; they were given to them to teach and believe on the authority of the Son of God who came down to earth to reveal to us those things. If they were told us on Divine authority they must, in his humble opinion, be taught, if they were to be taught at all, by the man or woman who could preface the teaching by the words "I believe." Let their Lordships think what it meant. Children came at their most impressionable age and were under the authority of the man or woman who had undertaken, perhaps, the noblest task open to human beings and who had to teach these things. They had to tell their pupils of the great sacrifice made for mankind, to teach these principles to those who had never heard the name of God in their own home except perhaps in profanity. The child thought of these things, and would some day go to the teacher and say, "You have told me wonderful things, things I have never heard of before, do you believe that these things which you have taught me are true?" What must be the position of the teacher, whether man or woman, who could not answer that question in the affirmative? What effect did they think it would have upon the child's mind? If the teacher was in that position and had to give the answer that he had been teaching things that he did not believe himself, he would not only destroy the glimmering of faith in the child's mind, but would go far to destroy his own position and influence as the instructor of that child. He wanted to do all he could to exalt the position of the profession. It was a great profession; it was second in importance only to the parent and, in after years, hardly second to that of the clergyman. When the child grew up and perhaps fell under the influence of the clergyman, the same question would recur, "Does this man who is telling me these things believe," and the child would go back upon the statement of the teacher, who was the greatest man at the time in the child's estimation, but, who had been discovered to be teaching those things which he or she did not believe. That would not only have done no good, but it would have done positive harm to the child's faith and life.

He perhaps ought not to have gone so far into these very sacred topics. They were, perhaps, not altogether suitable for a discussion in Parliament either in one House or the other, but they lay at the very root of the difficulties with which they were faced, and by some means or other they would have to be got over, In his humble opinion the only way that could be done was along the lines of the proposal he had put on the Paper. Some might think he went too far, and that this scheme should not be extended to the presently provided schools; that it perhaps should not be extended to all the schools which were taken over, and that it should be confined to what were known as single school areas. Those were subjects of detail compared with the principles which he was endeavouring to impress upon their Lordships. He could not follow them all out to-night, and those who were much more competent than he and who knew the English system and the English difficulties better than he did would give their Lordships better advice than he could. They must not forget that the more universal they made this system the more likely it was to work. When they came to discuss the question of what was or was not the single school area they would be involved in all sorts of difficulties. A single school area was not only an area in which there was only a single school, but it might be an area in which there was only one type of school accessible, and it might occur either in the country or in the town. Unless they adopted a scheme which would cover all these difficulties and in which broad general principles were laid down they would not have succeeded in solving the difficulties they were there discussing.

He had discharged his task feebly and imperfectly, he was afraid, but the questions he wanted each noble Lord to put to himself were first, "In this Bill as it stands is there a really national settlement?" Secondly, "Do you hope by means of this Bill as it stands to reach finality?" In his opinion it could not do so without wide and great changes. They came later to Clauses 4 and 5. They were told that those clauses were exceptions from the principle of the Bill, and so they were, but the more exceptions they made the more difficulties they involved themselves in. He did not know that he was entitled to speak for others, but if they once made up their minds to change their system to the extent of taking his system, the difficulties they were face to face with under Clauses 4 and 5 would be diminished. He did not know that they would disappear altogether, but he was certain that that complexity would be greatly diminished, and that they would lay the foundations of a really national settlement. He frankly said that he had no hope that the Government would have the courage to accept this Amendment. He was not sure that at this late stage it was possible to do so, but this he said with all the force and conviction that he could put into it, that from all the study he had given to the subject for the last ten or fifteen years, he believed that ultimately it was in this way and in this way alone they would be able to save religious education in England and to prevent the growth of any feeling in favour of a system of purely secular education. If anything would convert people in this country and Scotland to secular education it would be the dissensions of those who, in main general principles, were agreed but who could not make up their minds to be candid with themselves and to be fair one with another. Let them acknowledge these difficulties. They were there whether they acknowledged them or not. They acknowledged them in the Army, in the prison service, and in the industrial schools, and made provision for them. He had but one more word to say. Mr. Birrell was reported to have said—he forgot the occasion—that minorities must suffer. Taken as it stood that was to his mind a crude and imperfect statement. It might be that they must suffer, but it was the duty of practical statesmen who had to deal with majorities and minorities, and it was a Christian duty of those who had to deal with minorities, to see that they suffered as little as possible. It was to smooth the difficulties, to make the difficulties in the way of these minorities as little as possible, that he had taken upon himself to put before their Lordships this Amendment. He desired to thank them most warmly for the kindness with which they had received his speech, and he begged to move the Amendment which stood in his name.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'schoolhouse,' to insert the words 'or if in the case of any public elementary school in which extended facilities are not afforded under this Act the parents of not less than twenty children have required such facilities.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Moved, "That the House be resumed."—(*Lord Reay.*)

Question agreed to.

House resumed accordingly, and to be again in Committee To-morrow.

House adjourned at Five minutes past Eleven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Wednesday*, 31*st October*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*

### PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP K).

Sir JOSEPH LEESE reported from the Committee on Group K of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*

## *PETITIONS.*

### BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petition from Glasgow, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 506 (Mauritius, Annual Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3726 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND NICARAGUA).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Nicaragua for the direct exchange of Parcels by Parcel Post, dated 4th July, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### COTTON GROWING.

Address for "Return of Correspondence between the India Office and the Government of India and the British Cotton Growing Association which has taken place since the presentation of C. 1982 of Session 1904."—(*Mr. Rees.*)

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Telegraphic Delays.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the telegraphic delays that took place at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Bristol, Dublin, Exeter, and Glasgow during the months of July, August, and September; whether this delay is due to the fact that the number of the staff is based upon the minimum requirements of the offices, and that the delay on telegrams is ignored by the Department unless a certain average per hour per unit of staff is performed; and whether he has any official reports showing that the decline in the receipts of the telegraph system is due to the growing inefficiency and unpunctuality of the service.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) My attention is called from time to time to telegraphic delays, and in the case of some at least of the cities mentioned by the hon. Member I have had special ininquiry made, and the result reported to me specially. It is not the fact that the number of the staff is based upon the minimum requirements of the offices, or that the delay on telegrams is ignored unless a certain average of work per unit of staff is performed. The hon. Member has been misinformed on these points. I have reason to believe that the telegraph system is not less efficient than it ever was. As a matter of fact the delays are less than formerly. If reasonable economies are to prevail the staff cannot be based on the maximum demand that may at any time occur. The hon. Member is aware that the summer months are those when the telegraph business is at its maximum. It is during those months that a considerable proportion of the telegraphists take their holidays, which, looking at the difficulty of obtaining sufficient season assistants, adds considerably to the difficulties of conducting the service during the summer.

### Submarine Lifting Machinery.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether at stations from which submarines are exercised, apparatus is kept capable of lifting a submarine if an accident occurs; and, if not, whether provision will be made for that purpose in next year's Estimates.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Apparatus is kept at Portsmouth capable of raising a sunken submarine under favourable conditions, and the question of providing similar apparatus at Devonport and Sheerness is under consideration. It cannot, however, be stated that there is much likelihood that, in the event of an accident, a submarine could be raised in time to save life; and no satisfactory design for a salvage vessel capable of effecting this has yet been produced.

### Shipbuilding—Costs of Hulls.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the chief causes of the difference in cost of the hulls of the sister ships "Suffolk" and "Essex," built in the Royal Dockyards at a cost of £393,483 and £445,694 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The difference in the cost of the hulls of these two vessels was inquired into by the Public Accounts Committee in July, 1905, and I can only refer the hon. Member to pages 297–299 of the Report of the Committeee for that year, where he will find a full statement of all the contributory causes.

### South Western District Office Cycle Postmen.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will explain why no answer has been received by the cyclist postmen of the South Western District Office, London, to the memorials of June and July last, addressed to the Secretary and Controller respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Several questions arising in connection with postmen's cycle duties in London are at present under consideration; and I find it difficult to reply to the memorials referred to until I have had time to consider the whole subject. I hope, however, to be able to give a reply shortly.

### Government Contractors and Fair Wages.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works, in view of the undertaking that the various Government Departments would consider the matter of the Fair Wage Clause in their application to Government contracts, whether any, and, if any, what action has been taken in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) It has been the practice of my Department for years past to take such measures as were considered best to secure the observance of the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons, but I have recently caused specific clauses for that purpose to be inserted in certain contracts in which they had not been so categorically expressed before. I am, of course, able to answer only for my own Department.

### Waygood and Company's Contracts.

MR. O'GRADY: To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether representation has been made to him by the Lambeth Trades and Labour Council respecting the firm of Messrs. Waygood and Company, lift makers, that on contracts for His Majesty's Government the wages paid to wood-cutting machinists in the employ of the firm were 50 per cent. less than the current rates; whether inquiries have been made; and, if so, the result of those inquiries.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) A representation to this effect was made to me in July last, and I replied that it was impossible to obtain an explanation from Messrs. Waygood and Company unless I could acquaint them with the specific charges made against them, which had been furnished to me in confidence. Not having received the Trades Council's assent to my doing this, I have not been able to proceed further in the matter.

### Bengal Tenancy Act.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of Bengal, shortly before the anti-partition agitation commenced, instituted a survey and settlement of rent under the Bengal Tenancy Act, in order to the protection of the low caste Hindu and Mahomedan tenants of the high caste Hindu landlords; and whether in other parts of India, where there are no landlords under permanent settlement, there has been any such agitation as is now proceeding in Bengal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The surveys in question have been in progress in various parts of Bengal since 1892. They are intended to ascertain and record the respective rights of landlords and tenants, and they are for the advantage of both classes. Similar surveys have been made, or are being made, in districts not under permanent settlement. The agitation referred to in the latter part of the Question is confined to that part of India which is affected by the recent change. There are permanently settled areas outside Bengal in which no such agitation exists.

### Partition of Bengal.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he is aware that His Highness the Aga Khan, president of the recent Musalman deputation to His Excellency Lord Minto, the Honourable Nawab Sayyid Muhamad Bahadur, at present Musalman member of the Viceroy's Council, the honourable Muhamad Yusuf Khan Bahadur, lately a member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, and president of the Central Muhamadan Association, and many other leading Musalmans have recently condemned the partition of Bengal; and whether he will lay the opinions of the three gentlemen named upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have seen in the newspapers statements as to the views of the three gentlemen mentioned, but, apart from these, I have no knowledge of their opinions on the subject in question. Their opinions are not on record in this Department.

### Indian Army Quick Firing Guns.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for War what progress has been made in re-arming batteries in India with the new quick-firing gun.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) All the quick-firing guns required for the re-armament of the batteries in India are already in that country. Not all of them, however, are at present ready for use, as some of the limbers required have not yet been shipped.

### Indian Military Burden.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the changes recently introduced in respect of service pay will result in any reduction of the additional charge of upwards of a quarter of a million thrown upon Indian revenues by the increase in the soldiers' pay effected in 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) These changes will result in a gradual reduction in the charge referred to.

### Contracts for Munitions of War.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, while, since 1901, under the present and previous Governments, about 10,000 workmen have been discharged from Woolwich Arsenal, causing great distress in Woolwich and Plumstead, large contracts for munitions of war have been placed with private contractors; and whether, in the interests of national economy, he will consider the advisability of making full use of the national capital invested in the buildings and plant at Woolwich.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The principle of dividing the orders for war munitions between the Government factories and the trade has long been accepted as the best policy in the interests of the Army and the nation. By this means only is it possible to secure economically the necessary expansion to meet the needs of war. Since the termination of the South African War there has been an inevitable decrease in the volume of the Government orders, but I am satisfied that in the allocation of these orders the Government factories have received the fullest possible proportion. It is not possible to keep the whole of the plant in the Government factories working in time of peace.

### Case of John Whitworth of Plumstead.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the fact that John Whitworth, stoker, of Plumstead, who was discharged from Woolwich Arsenal a few weeks ago, has committed suicide, the coroner's jury deciding that his mind was evidently affected by his dismissal; and whether, in view of his responsibility to this House for the proper management of national Army workshops, he will afford it an early opportunity of discussing the recent dismissals.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has been drawn to this lamentable occurrence. I much regret that these discharges must take place. I have just explained under what circumstances they have been made.

### Distress in Woolwich.

SIR WILLIAM EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlet, Stepney): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the distress prevailing in Woolwich owing to slackness of work in and discharges from the Royal Arsenal; and whether, in view of the fact that the approach of winter is likely to render this distress more acute, any steps are in contemplation for providing work for these men.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As I have already explained, discharges at Woolwich Arsenal have, unfortunately, been inevitable in view of the reduction of requirements since the termination of the war. I am doing all in my power to make the reductions as gradual and light as is consistent with my duty to the public generally.

### Cavalry in Scotland.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give any information as to when the only cavalry regiment in Scotland is to be removed, and whither.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I have nothing to add to my reply to the hon. and gallant Member last Thursday. Details of the move have not yet been settled.†

### Royal Irish Constabulary Fund.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state when were the accounts of the Royal Irish Constabulary Force funds last audited; was any balance sheet sent to the subscribers; will he state the number of men now serving who are subscribers, and the number of pensioners who are subscribers at the present time to the fund; and what are the average annual disbursements to widows and orphans from the fund.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The accounts of the benefit branch of the Constabulary Force fund are audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, whose certificate of the audit in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1905, was issued on 12th December last. The accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1906, are at present in course of audit. No balance sheet is issued to subscribers. The number of subscribers on 1st July last was 7,760, of whom 4,732 were pensioners and 3,028 still serving in the force. During the past five years the average annual disbursements to widows and orphans amounted to £15,240.

---

† See Col. 401.

### Irish Assistant Teachers.

Mr. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether trained assistant teachers in the service prior to 1900 can be promoted to second and higher grades with corresponding salaries under ordinary circumstances and without special consideration in the same manner as principal teachers.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that there is no provision in their rules for promoting assistant teachers in the manner indicated in the Question.

### Falchorrib Landing Stage.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now able to say what decision has been arrived at in regard to the provision of a landing place at Falchorrib, county Donegal.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) As I informed the hon. Member on 14th March last,† a sum of £1,000 was at first provisionally mentioned in connection with proposed works at Falchorrib, but it was subsequently found that effective works would cost a much greater sum, and one disproportionate to the benefits to be derived. The Irish Government are at present in communication with the Board of Works with the object of ascertaining whether useful works could not be constructed at a cost which, though in excess of that originally mentioned, would still be within reasonable limits.

### Australian Imperial Preference Bill.

Mr. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a telegram was sent to Lord Northcote informing him in effect that the proposed grant of a shipping preference contained in the Australian Imperial Preference Bill was contrary to international treaty obligations; if so, what was the date of such telegram and what treaties and what clauses of such treaties were relied upon as prohibitive of the shipping preference in question; whether the Law Officers of the Crown were consulted before the telegram was sent; and, if not, whether any legal advice was taken on the proper construction of such treaties.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State was not aware until 3rd October that a Bill, giving preference to British goods imported in British ships was actually before the Commonwealth Parliament. He thereupon telegraphed to the Governor-General on 4th October, stating that the Board of Trade had pointed out that while the right to give preference in respect of British goods was beyond question, preference to such goods by reason of British nationality of vessel carrying them would seem to be a violation of several treaties binding some or all of the Australian Colonies. The principal treaties in question are the treaties with Egypt 1889, Greece 1886, Italy 1883, Japan 1894, and Russia 1859, all of which contain articles expressly providing that goods may be imported in vessels of the foreign country in question without being liable to higher duties than if they are imported in British vessels. As the Bill was expected to pass in a few days, it was not possible to consult the Law Officers as to the meaning of these articles, but the whole question of the treaties will be further considered when the Secretary of State receives the Bill which the Governor-General has reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

### Conviction of Juveniles.

Mr. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the persons under sixteen years of age who were committed to prison in England and Wales during the twelve months to 31st March, 1906, were committed on summary jurisdiction, at quarter sessions, and at assizes, respectively; and in each case, how many were committed in default of payment of a fine of less than ten shillings and over ten shillings

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 1223.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) 1,028 persons under sixteen years of age were committed to prisons in England and Wales during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1906, of whom 993 were committed from Courts of summary jurisdiction, twenty from quarter sessions, and fifteen from assizes. Of those committed from Courts of summary jurisdiction, 437 were in default of payment of a fine less than ten shillings, and 288 in default of payment of a fine of ten shillings and upwards. None of those committed from Courts of quarter sessions and assize were in default of payment of a fine.

### Motor Car and 'Bus Accidents.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of accidents in the metropolitan police district during the month of September caused by motor cars and motor omnibuses, respectively, showing in how many instances personal injuries have resulted; and in how many cases such injuries have proved fatal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The subjoined table gives information as to the accidents known to the police to have been caused in the streets during the month of September, not only by mechanical but also by horse drawn vehicles:—

Return showing the number of accidents to persons or property known to the police to have been caused in the streets during the month of September 1906 by the vehicles named.

Number of accidents caused by

| Horse drawn Omnibuses. | Other horse drawn vehicles (excluding tramcars). | Tramcars. | | Motor Cars (including Motor Cycles). | Motor Omnibuses. | Total number of Accidents. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Horse drawn. | Mechanically propelled. | | | |
| 192 | 1,624 | 61 | 363 | 349 | 469 | 3,058 |

Number of accidents shown in preceding columns in which personal injury resulted, caused by

| Horse drawn Omnibuses. | Other horse drawn vehicles (excluding tramcars). | Tramcars. | | Motor Cars (including Motor Cycles). | Motor Omnibuses. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Horse drawn. | Mechanically propelled. | | | |
| 51 | 551 | 27 | 129 | 115 | 95 | 968 |

Number of cases in which the injuries proved fatal when caused by

| Horse drawn Omnibuses. | Other horse drawn vehicles (excluding tramcars). | Tramcars. | | Motor Cars (including Motor Cycles). | Motor Omnibuses. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Horse drawn. | Mechanically propelled. | | | |
| 1 | 22 | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 28 |

### Allowances to Signal Lieutenants in the Navy.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that a memorandum, issued some years ago, stated that lieutenants, after passing a preliminary examination in signals and going through a course at the signal school, would, when subsequently acting as signal lieutenants, be paid an allowance of 2s. 6d. a day on the same principle as lieutenants specialising in gunnery, torpedo, navigation, submarines, and gymnastics; and whether he will state if all lieutenants now performing signal duties obtain this extra pay.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) No such orders as those referred to have been issued, but arrangements have been made recently for selected lieutenants to go through a course in the signal school and for the names of such officers as show themselves to be well qualified in signalling to be specially noted, with a view to their employment in that duty. Authority has also been obtained to pay an allowance to a lieutenant appointed as signal officer in a fleet, if the appointment is in addition to that of the flag lieutenant and the signal duties are not carried out by the latter officer.

### Freeboard on Cargo Ships.

MR. BARKER (Penryn and Falmouth): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if the Board have sanctioned the reduction of the freeboard on cargo ships, in consequence of which vessels will be permitted to be loaded from six to twelve inches above the recognised load-line; and, if so, will he state what justification there is for this proceeding, and if he will take steps to minimise the danger to life and property from reducing the freeboard.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) In March last the statutory tables of freeboard under which load-lines are assigned to vessels were so modified as to permit of the deeper loading, in varying degrees ranging from six to twelve inches, of certain classes of vessels of modern construction and approved strength, but the older vessels which do not come up to this standard are allowed no such deeper loading. Such modification is provided for by Section 438 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and was adopted by the Board of Trade upon the recommendation of Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, the Bureau Veritas, the British Corporation for the Survey and Registry of Shipping (the authorities appointed by statute to assign freeboards to vessels), and by the responsible technical officers of the Department, and the recommendation was made after careful consideration of the experience of the sixteen years' working of the tables, and of the result of exhaustive inquiries as to modern practice, both as regards the structure and seaworthiness of vessels. The investigations of the assigning bodies mentioned clearly led them to the conclusion that the deeper loading would in no way increase the danger to life and property in the vessels concerned.

### Vaccination Prosecution.

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will instruct vaccination officers to stay further proceedings being taken by them against parents for non-vaccination, pending the legislation promised for next year.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Looking to the statutory duties which devolve on the vaccination officers in this matter, it does not appear to me that I am empowered to give them any such instructions as those suggested.

### Site of the New Westminster County Court.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is proposed to rebuild the Westminster County Court on the site of the existing building in St. Martin's Lane; whether representations have been made by the Westminster City Council to the effect that the site is inconvenient and inadequate; and whether further inquiries will be made before the building is proceeded with.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Answer to the first two parts of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the last paragraph, I am informed that a new building adequate in all essentials can be erected on the ground occupied by the present Court. The matter has received the fullest consideration.

### Reduction of Telegraphic Rates to India.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the ignorance which prevails in Great Britain in regard to Indian affairs, he will consider the desirability of the Imperial Government taking early action towards the reduction of the Press and private telegraphic rates to India, which compare unfavourably with those to other British Possessions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The last reduction in the private telegraphic rate to India was effected in 1905, when the rate was reduced to 2s. a word, and the attention of the telegraph companies was at the same time called to the desirability of a further reduction in the Press rate, which had been reduced from 1s. 4d. to 1s. in 1902; but the companies were unwilling to agree, and the development of the traffic since 1905 has not been such as to justify a further endeavour to obtain a reduction in the rates. The subject will, however, continue to receive my careful attention.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that during the past few months, owing to the conditions under which telegraphic news is supplied from India to England, and from England to India, complaints have arisen as to the insufficiency and misleading character of the news in regard, especially, to political events and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have seen such complaints in the newspapers, and it is with the newspapers rather than with His Majesty's Government that it would seem to rest to take any action which may be desired.

### Army Officers' Married Quarters at Poona.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the inconvenience which is involved at Poona, particularly to junior married military officers, with regard to house rents, the average rate a married man has to pay being stated at 150 rupees a month, or £120 a year; and to the fact that in the N cavalry lines there are only the mess and five bungalows, one for the commissioned officer's house, one for the second in command, and two others suitable only for bachelors, who living at the mess have a prior claim, while the nearest available bungalows for married officers are from one-and-a-half to two miles distant and over two level railway crossings; and whether, seeing that in Presidency towns, such as Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras where similar conditions exist as to high rent and expenditure, relief is afforded by a Presidency house allowance, he will explain why this cannot be afforded also at Poona, or some steps be taken to provide cheaper accommodation.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The inconvenience experienced at Poona has not hitherto come under my notice. I will make inquiries on the subject.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can now state the result of the inquiry of Lord Ross's Committee into the alleged disturbances at Greenwich Observatory, caused by the London County Council Electric Power Station; and, if not, when the Report of the Committee is likely to be made.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Committee's investigations are now practically complete, and they hope to be in a position to present their Report very shortly.

### The Home Fleet.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, under the new memorandum constituting a Home fleet, the number of battleships in full commission will be reduced.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The battleships have been arranged in what the Board consider to be a more efficient fighting disposition. Two battleships from the Channel, Mediterranean, and

Atlantic Fleets will be added to the Home Fleet.

### Sleeping Sickness.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any report has been received from Dr. Koch upon the sleeping sickness; and what steps are being taken to preserve the British Central Africa Protectorate from this disease.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): No report has, as far as is known, been received from Dr. Koch, whose commission was appointed by the Imperial German Government. It is proposed as soon as the rains are over that two special medical officers selected by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who have generously offered to pay the salaries of both officers, should proceed to the British Central Africa Protectorate, study the local conditions, and suggest precautionary measures. It is presumed that these officers will arrive in the Protectorate in January next.

### New Hebrides Convention.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the New Hebrides Convention was agreed to without the assent first being obtained of the Governments of New Zealand and the Australian Commonwealth; and, if this be so, if he can state why His Majesty's Government did not consult with and obtain the opinion of Australasian statesmen on a matter so vitally affecting Australasia.

MR. CHURCHILL: The New Hebrides Convention was not signed until the views of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand upon it had been consulted and their acquiescence, albeit reluctant, obtained. But long before the draft was even provisionally concluded the Secretary of State had been in constant and detailed communication with the Colonial Governments concerned; and during the protracted negotiations which have taken place, no effort has been spared and no resource neglected to secure the permanent interests of these Colonies, and the largest possible measure of their claims.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the House to understand that the Government of New Zealand, as well as the Australian Government, acquiesced in this Convention, or is it not the fact that they protested against it?

*MR. CHURCHILL: "Their acquiescence, albeit reluctant," is a statement which corresponds with the facts.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): When will the Papers relating to the Convention be laid on the Table of the House?

*MR. CHURCHILL: It is the first time that the matter has been pressed upon us, but I will consult the Secretary of State and find out what Papers can be laid upon the Table of the House, and, if so, when.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Cannot information also be got at the same time for the use of Members as to the views expressed by the Australasian Governments on this matter?

*MR. CHURCHILL: That is a question for the Foreign Office, I think. I will ask the Secretary of State.

### Railway Extension in Nigeria.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any decision has yet been arrived at by the Government in regard to railway extension in Nigeria, and whether he can make any announcement on the subject.

*MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir; but a definite statement of railway policy both in Southern and Northern Nigeria will be made as soon as the Secretary of State is in a position to do so.

MR. LONSDALE: When will a decision be come to?

*MR. CHURCHILL: I hope it will be announced by Christmas, but I cannot give any definite pledge.

### Unemployed White Labour on the Rand.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether 1,000 whites have been discharged from the Rand mines during the past six months; and whether 1,000 skilled whites on the Rand are now registered as unemployed.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir. The number of white workmen employed in the Witwatersrand gold mines was diminished during the six months from April to September by nearly 1,000; and during the same period the increase in the numbers of Chinese under licences issued by the late Government was 3,598. There are numbers of white men on the Rand who are at present unemployed, but I am not able to say how many. I should add that there is abundant evidence that the population of the Witwatersrand are becoming fully alive to the significance of these facts, and they will shortly be able to express their own views of them in a representative assembly.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Does the hon. Member attribute, as I infer, the discharge of the white men to the introduction of 3,000 Chinamen? [Cries from the LABOUR PARTY of "Certainly."]

MR. CHURCHILL: It is concurrent with, if not consequent upon, it.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Cannot information be given of the decrease in Kaffir labour for the same period, and is there any information showing that any of the Chinese are doing the work of skilled white labour?

MR CHURCHILL: Perhaps the hon. Member will give me notice of the Question.

### Rand Mine Regulations.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Chinese labourers in the Rand mines are now required to make their complaints to the mine managers, instead of to the inspectors under the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, as heretofore.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir, I am not aware of any such alteration.

### The Chicago Scandals.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now give further information with reference to the Report by Mr. Fenn, the Consul at Chicago, with reference to the meat establishments; has the Report been received; has it been examined by an expert as promised, and will it be published; and, if so, when.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): As was stated in reply to a Question on 26th June last,† the Report was sent to the Local Government Board. The question of its publication is being considered.

SIR WILLIAM BULL. It was promised that it should be considered in June last.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Yes, Sir, and it is still being considered.

### The Bahr-el-Ghazal.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Congolese troops have evacuated the Soudanese Bahr-el-Ghazal, in accordance with the terms of the Anglo-Belgian Convention.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Answer is in the negative.

### Morocco and the Algeciras Protocol.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Sultan of Morocco has formally signified his accession to the Algeciras Protocol, and whether he has attached any conditions thereto.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The Sultan has acceded to the Algeciras Act, and ratified it as it stands. It would not be admissible to attach new conditions to it.

### Imprisonment of Juvenile Offenders.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the Report of the Governor of Leeds Prison for 1905–6, in which he urges that instead of sending young lads to prison for non-payment of fines and costs for such offences as playing at football in the streets and obstructing the footway, it would be better to write off these fines as irrecoverable, and so prevent these youngsters getting such a first taste of prison life; whether it is possible to compel the parents or guardians of children under sixteen, where their imprisonment is in lieu of a fine, to pay the fines and costs; and, if not, whether the Government will take steps, at an early date, to make such an arrangement possible.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clix., 769.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have seen the Report to which my hon. friend refers. I entirely sympathise with his objection to the committal of young lads to prison for offences of the character indicated; but I do not see how it can altogether be avoided. It would be impossible to maintain order in the streets if such offences were to go unpunished, and there is great difficulty in finding any other mode of punishment. There is already power to fine the parents if they have conduced to the commission of the offence either by wilful default or by neglect; but of course there are many cases where, a parent, at work all day, is guilty of neither default nor neglect. The subject is receiving my careful attention, and I hope shortly to introduce a Bill to provide for the probation of offenders, which will, I hope, have some effect in reducing the number of young persons sent to prison.

### Traction Engine Traffic Prosecutions.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he say by virtue of what section of what Act of Parliament, if any, the police are excused from taking proceedings against the owners of traction engines who commit a public or private nuisance, within the meaning of Section 13 of the Locomotive Act of 1861; and whether he will take the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown as to whether it is not the duty of the police to take action when they are cognisant of any offence punishable by fine or imprisonment committed contrary to an Act of Parliament.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My hon. friend's Question is, I think, asked under a misapprehension. The section to which he refers has only the effect of saving the right of persons aggrieved or of local authorities to take proceedings by indictment or by action for nuisance; it imposes no obligation on anyone to take proceedings.

MR. MARKHAM: Then, am I to understand that, although the police have cognisance of an offence under the Act, the householder himself must take action? Surely you don't expect a man to get out of his bed at night for that purpose?

*MR. GLADSTONE: It is obvious that the offence must be proved by aggrieved persons on the spot.

### Motor Prosecutions.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he say if he has at any time given the Commissioner of Police a discretional power in the matter of motor prosecutions; and, if not, will he instruct this officer that his duties are to administer the law as enacted by Parliament.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The discretionary power of the Commissioner arises not from any instructions of mine, but from the provisions of the law. It is the duty of the Commissioner to take reasonable steps to enforce the Motor-Car Acts; but no obligation is imposed on him by those Acts to prosecute in every case where an offence may possibly have been committed. In that matter a wide discretion is left him by the law, and that discretion he has, I am satisfied, exercised wisely and with a full sense of the responsibilities imposed on him.

MR. MARKHAM was understood to ask if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the streets that day had been filled with petrol vapour. Was it not possible to construct motor cars which did not emit vapour?

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Commissioner is taking expert advice on this point.

### Motor Omnibus Accidents in London.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the fact that motor omnibuses were responsible for 797 accidents in the metropolitan police district during the months of July and August, resulting in 149 cases of personal injury, including six deaths, can he state approximately what percentage of these accidents are attributable to side-slips; and will he state whether motor omnibus proprietors have yet been requested to introduce some device for the prevention of side-slips.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I cannot give any estimate. Many of the accidents which occur are not witnessed by the police, and they cannot with accuracy state what proportion of them are attributable to side-slip. I am assured that proprietors and makers of motor omnibuses are sparing no efforts to discover the means of remedying the tendency to side-slip.

### Alien Immigration.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the orders issued by the provincial authorities of the Rhineland, Westphalia, under which many thousands of foreign working men, chiefly Russians from Poland and the Baltic provinces, will be immediately expelled from Prussia; whether numbers of these people are finding their way to this country; and whether persons expelled from Germany on economic grounds will be regarded here as political refugees and allowed to flood the mining industry.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware that there have been newspaper reports to the effect of the first paragraph of the Question, but I have no authentic information on the subject. There is no indication at present of any influx into this country of the persons referred to. I am unable to answer hypothetical questions as to the meaning of political refugee. The hon. and gallant Member will recollect, moreover, that the Question does not arise except in a case where the immigrant is required, but is unable, to show that he has, or is in a position to obtain, the means of decently supporting himself.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to ascertain if these evictions are taking place in Prussia?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Assuming that the statements are correct, we have no indication of any increased arrivals here.

### Deported Aliens.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state how many persons recommended for expulsion from this country have not had deportation orders made against them; what were the offences for which their expulsion was recommended by the Courts; what was the nationality of such persons; and what were the reasons in each case for ignoring the recommendations of the convicting tribunals?

*MR. GLADSTONE: In nineteen cases out of the 235 recommendations which have up to the present time become ripe for my decision, orders have not been made. In three of these no orders were necessary, as the aliens were removed from the United Kingdom by their own Consul, at his special request. In four others, the recommendations were made by Courts which had no jurisdiction to make them, and I was precluded therefore from acting on them. In the remaining twelve, I decided, after full consideration of all the circumstances, not to make expulsion orders. The offences involved in the twelve cases were:—eight larcency and receiving, two soliciting, one drunk and disorderly, and one begging. The nationalities were:—six Russian, and one each of French, German, Spanish, Austrian, Roumanian, Swedish. I may add that one of these twelve aliens abused his opportunity, rendered himself again liable to expulsion, and was expelled. I do not think it desirable to enter into the grounds upon which, in the exercise of the discretion given me by Statute, I came to these decisions: but I may say that they included such considerations as the length of time the alien had been in this country, the dependence on him or her of a family mostly British-born, the fact that it was a first offence, an undertaking by a Consul to look after the alien, etc.

### German Gipsies.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that since August last 159 policemen have been engaged in Cheshire on special duty in accompanying bodies of gipsies who are travelling about the country; whether the shipping companies who brought these people to England are known; whether more persons of the same class are being brought; and whether the same regulations to stop the influx which proved effectual in the Scottish case will be adopted.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware that the police in Cheshire, as in other counties, have been much concerned with wandering bands of alien gipsies. These bands form part, I believe, of those who arrived in Scotland earlier in the year. No gipsies are now being brought to the United Kingdom or have been brought since I took steps to stop the incursion into Scotland.

### Gloucester Prison Outbreak.

MR. GODFREY BARING (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the recent outbreak amongst the prisoners in His Majesty's Prison at Gloucester and the subsequent escape of four men, he has any official reports showing that the present staff of officers in local prisons is sufficient to secure the safe custody of prisoners.

*MR. GLADSTONE: There are no such reports, but every representation from the governor of a prison to the effect that his staff is insufficient is very carefully considered, and when an increase of staff is proved to be necessary it is always granted. The outbreak at Gloucester was not due to any insufficiency of staff, but to an unfortunate neglect by one of the officers on duty of an elementary precaution, viz., that not more than one cell door shall be unlocked at the same time when work is being removed from the prisoners' cells previously to locking up the prison.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): Has the right hon. Gentleman had any representation with regard to discipline in this prison?

*MR. GLADSTONE: That hardly arises on this Question.

### Vivisection Commission.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he is aware that it has been decided to hold the sittings of the Royal Commission on Vivisection in private; and will he say if there has been any recent precedent for such a course.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware of the decision of the Royal Commission, but, as I said last week, the question whether any one shall be admitted during the taking of evidence is a matter within the discretion of the Commissioners. In several recent cases the evidence has been taken in private; I may instance the Motor Car Commission, the War Commission of 1902, and the Royal Commission on Food Supply in Time of War.

MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): May I ask if the right hon. Gentleman will use his influence with the Commissioners, in view of the public feeling on this question, to induce them to admit accredited members of the Press to their sittings?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Officially I have no power whatever to interfere with a Royal Commission.

MR. G. GREENWOOD: I used the word influence.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Is there not an official of the Home Office on the Commission?

*MR. GLADSTONE: One of the Members of the Commissioners is an official of the Home Office.

### The Imprisoned Female Suffragists.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the eleven ladies, who are suffering imprisonment in connection with the movement in favour of women's suffrage, have been obliged to wear prison clothes, and are otherwise being treated as ordinary criminals.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of eleven women committed to prison for two months at the Westminster Police Court on the 24th October; whether he has been informed that one of these prisoners has been released owing to the serious condition of her health, and another is in hospital; and whether he is prepared, as was done in the similar case of Mr. John Kensit, to transfer them to the class of first-class misdemeanants.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, having regard to the fact that the women suffragettes now imprisoned in Holloway Gaol are political rather than criminal offenders, he will consider whether they can be treated as first-class misdemeanants, as was done in the case of the Jameson raiders.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will take measures to cause the women suffragists recently arrested to be treated as first-class misdemeanants; and whether the treatment ordered in the case of Mr. W. T. Stead some years ago would not be sufficient to meet the requirements of justice in the present cases.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that the ten ladies who were sent to prison by the Westminster police magistrate last Wednesday, under circumstances well known to the House, two have already become seriously ill; and, having regard to the absence of moral delinquency in the offence for which these ladies are imprisoned, will he order them to be treated in future as first-class misdemeanants.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I propose to answer along with the hon. Member's Question those of the hon. Members for West Ham, Merthyr Tydfil, East Marylebone, and North Salford. The ladies, who were committed to prison in default of finding sureties, have been treated in accordance with Section 6 of the Prison Act, 1898, which enacts that, unless the Court has directed them to be placed in the first division, they are to be placed in the second division. They have had to wear prison clothes, but have not associated with the ordinary criminal of the third class. I have carefully considered the question of placing them in the first division. The cases of Mr. Stead and the Jameson raiders afford no parallel, as they were convicted prisoners whose treatment could be altered by a conditional pardon from the Crown. In the case of Mr. Kensit, who was a surety prisoner, the order for inclusion in the first division was made by the stipendiary magistrate. I am advised that I have no power to make such an order, and that it can be made only by the Court. As it appeared that no application was made to the magistrate when he committed the ladies that he should direct them to be placed in the first division, I have brought the matter to his notice; and I am glad to say that he has seen his way to direct that they should be treated as first division offenders, and has this morning sent an order to this effect to the prison authorities.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked whether this statement applied to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst?

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, it does.

### Prison Discipline.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his attention has been called to the report that the mutinous convicts from Maidstone have been sentenced at Dartmoor to fifty days special diet, to lose all marks, and, in addition, to six months separate confinement; and whether separate confinement means solitary confinement; and, if so, whether he has sanctioned the sentence.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The sentences awarded by the director at Dartmoor vary from a minimum of ten days No. 1 diet, with forfeiture of three months remission, up to fifteen days No. 1 diet, and forty-two days No. 2 diet, forfeiture of marks for remission, close confinement within the legal limit of twenty-eight days, and a second period of separate confinement for six months. Separate confinement does not mean solitary confinement, but only that a prisoner works in his cell instead of working with a party; he has the regular daily exercise, daily visits and instruction in his trade, attends chapel services, and is allowed library books. The sentences do not require the sanction of the Secretary of State, but are within the statutory powers of a director.

MR. MARKHAM asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would take into consideration the question of abolishing punishments inflicted with the object of causing physical pain to the men through their stomachs. Was he aware that No. 1 diet is lower than that given in the concentration camps in South Africa which was condemned by His Majesty's present Ministers as unworthy of this country?

*MR. GLADSTONE: The question of prison punishment is not easy. You must punish some part of a man. Perhaps my hon. friend will make a suggestion to me on the subject.

MR. MARKHAM: Birch him.

### Case of Mr. Nettleton of Southend,

*MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Nettleton, of Southend-on-Sea, who was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment in Chelmsford Gaol for passive resistance, although on the previous occasion he was only sentenced to three days and detained one day; that, although he attended the Court, his case was not mentioned during the public hearing of the business of the Court, but was dealt with and the warrant for his arrest issued privately; that he was placed in a dirty cell with two w.c.'s at the police station; that the gaol regulation prescribed tea and bread for the two early meals, and an eight ounce loaf and a pint of cocoa at night, which latter he could not drink owing to its fatty nature, and in fact he lived on bread and water the whole of the seven days of his detention, and has suffered in health in consequence; and will he cause inquiries to be made into the case.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The question of the term for which a person in default of payment of rates should be committed to prison is one for the justices. I have no authority to interfere in the matter, and I have no reason to think there was in this case any irregularity in the procedure. The condition of the police cells is a matter for the local police authority, to whom complaint may be made if anything was wrong. As regards Mr. Nettleton's prison treatment, I have made inquiry and am satisfied that there was no ground for complaint. The prisoner was allowed the diet prescribed for debtors, which, besides bread and tea in the morning and bread and cocoa in the evening, gives a considerable variety of diet for dinner, meat, soup, beans and other things. He made no complaint whilst he was in prison, and there is no record of his having returned any of his food.

### London Restaurants' Closing Hours.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that certain of the wealthier restaurants in London, notably the Savoy Restaurant, are permitted to retain their customers upon licensed premises after legal hours; and whether he will instruct the police to put an end to such a privilege.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Customers are not permitted to remain on licensed premises after the hour at which the premises are required to be closed. That hour is generally fixed by statute, but the local authority is empowered to permit licensed premises on special occasions to remain open for a limited time after that hour, and such permission is from time to time given to licensed premises, without regard to their being wealthy or otherwise, provided that the local authority is satisfied that the occasion is a special one within the meaning of the Acts.

MR. BELLOC: Is special permission given to these restaurants, the Savoy, Cecil, and Carlton, to remain open half an hour later than the ordinary time of closing?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have no doubt it has been given. Permission is given in hundreds of cases. It is special to each case.

MR. PICKERSGILL: Is that a general provision?

*MR. GLADSTONE: No, it is special in each case.

MR. BELLOC: How can I find out whether permission has been given in a particular case?

*MR. GLADSTONE: If the hon. Member will give me the case I will give him the information.

MR. BELLOC: I shall be happy to give the right hon. Gentleman a dozen cases.

### Chobham Motor Fatality.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a recent accident at Chobham, through which a cyclist lost his life in consequence of being ridden down by a motor car driven by Lieutenant Paton; and, seeing that the car travelled nearly 200 yards from the scene of the accident before it could be stopped, will he consider the expediency of introducing legislation such as will secure the imprisonment of persons who drive motor vehicles at excessive speeds on public thoroughfares.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have seen a newspaper report of the inquest in this case. As regards the question generally of penalties for driving at a speed or in a manner which is dangerous to the public, I may point out that under Section 11 of the Motor Car Act, 1903, a person guilty of this offence is not only liable to a pecuniary penalty, but in the case of a second or subsequent conviction he may, at the discretion of the Court, be imprisoned for a period not exceeding three months. Whether any alteration should be proposed in the penalties prescribed by the Act is a matter which will receive my consideration in connection with the Report of the Royal Commission on Motor Cars; but I may state that the Commission did not recommend any such alteration as regards this particular offence.

MR. LUPTON. Will the right hon. Gentleman send down inspectors to be present at inquests on fatalities caused by motor cars?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I will consider the matter.

### South Stoneham Union.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board why the Local Government Board is forcing an inquiry upon the inhabitants of the Southampton incorporation and South Stoneham union, respecting the dissolution of the Southampton incorporation and the formation of a new union to comprise, in addition to the old Southampton incorporation area, the two parishes of Portswood and Shirley, now in the South Stoneham union, when such inquiry has not been asked for by either board of guardians nor by any local authority; and whether he is aware that such inquiry is directly contrary to the decision of the House of Commons, who had the whole question before it in July, 1905, that the two above-mentioned parishes should not be added to the Southampton incorporation without a Parliamentary inquiry.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The South Stoneham guardians proposed to provide further infirmary accommodation, and as this would not be required if the parishes of Portswood and Shirley were taken out of the union, it is necessary that the question whether this alteration of area should be made should be finally settled. The Local Government Board consequently propose to hold a local inquiry on the subject. The Southampton guardians have passed a unanimous resolution in favour of the dissolution of the incorporation and the formation of a new union comprising the parishes above-mentioned. I am aware that a Select Committee in 1905 inserted in a Bill to confirm a Provisional Order on this subject a clause which would in certain circumstances have prevented these parishes from being included in a union formed under the Order except by means of a further

Provisional Order, but the Bill was not proceeded with, and under the general law the Local Government Board are empowered to alter Poor Law Unions at their discretion.

### Deaths from Starvation in London.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a Home Office Return, for 1904, of the number of deaths in London upon which a coroner's jury has returned a verdict of death from starvation or death accelerated by privation, together with the observations furnished to the Local Government Board by boards of guardians with reference to such cases; whether he is aware that there were forty-two such deaths in London, of which ten were in the eastern district, and whether seven out of those ten were in the Whitechapel district; whether he has considered the attitude of the Whitechapel guardians with reference to medical and other out-relief; and what steps, if any, the Local Government Board or the Poor Law inspectors of the Whitechapel district have taken to prevent a recurrence of deaths in Whitechapel of poor persons needing medical or other relief from the like cause.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have seen the Return, which gives the facts as stated in the Question. I am aware of the attitude of the guardians of the Whitechapel Union towards outdoor relief; but I would point out that in each of the cases in that union mentioned in the Return there does not appear to have been any application for outdoor relief. The applications are stated to have been for admission to the infirmary, and they seem to have been immediately granted. I do not understand that there was any default on the part of the guardians or their officers in any of the cases referred to.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): Is it not a fact that Whitechapel makes it generally known that it gives no out-door relief, and that, therefore, there is no use applying?

MR. JOHN BURNS: That does not apply to the cases mentioned in the Question, which are all infirmary cases. If application were made, the Whitechapel and all other boards of guardians throughout the country would at once request their officers to administer relief in such a regrettable emergency.

*DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): Is it not the fact that with one case—the death of a child of four months—the Stepney guardians refused relief unless the whole family went into the workhouse?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I cannot say.

### Technological Institute.

MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is prepared to give information as to the proposed constitution of the new Technological Institute, at South Kensington; and in particular whether arrangements will be made for the adequate representation of any other Universities than London on the governing body.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The consideration of this most important matter, and the various negotiations which have been necessary in regard to it, have not reached a sufficiently definite stage for me to be able to come to a definite decision upon the best manner in which the new institution should first be established. The real question which has to be decided is whether the new institution is to have a separate existence (at all events at first), or whether it cannot be from the outset an integral part of the University of London. This latter possibility depends upon how far the London University would be prepared to go as regards changes in the existing constitution of its senate in the directions needed to render this possible. A decision on this important question must very soon be arrived at, and I am on the point of communicating officially with the University in regard to it.

### Corporal Punishment in Schools.

*DR. COOPER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Board of Education has presented to it any Return as to the frequency of corporal punishment in the girls' and infants' departments of the public elementary schools; whether the Board of Education has any control or power to frame any rules as to the method of this form of punishment or as to the persons who can exercise it; and, if the Board of Education has the right to control, whether he will consider the advisability of abolishing corporal punishment in the girls' and infants' departments of all elementary schools.

MR. BIRRELL: The Board have no Returns of the kind referred to in the Question. Punishment books, in which of course all cases of corporal punishment should be recorded, are usually kept by the head teacher and are open to examination by the inspector. If properly kept these punishment books are valuable and ought, in my opinion, always to be kept. The Board have full power to frame rules on the subject, but have thought it best to confine themselves to making suggestions to local authorities. These suggestions are to be found on page 11 of the Board's "Suggestions for the Consideration of Teachers," and are as follows:—"In no case should infants be punished by the infliction of bodily pain, nor should girls be subjected to corporal punishment unless in exceptional cases, and then if possible at the hands of a woman teacher." Personally, I am strongly opposed to corporal punishment of girls, and I can assure the hon. Member that the whole question of the administration of corporal punishment is carefully watched by the Board of Education and its inspectors in conjunction with the local education authorities.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): Has a parent the right to inspect the punishment book?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think so. I can assure the hon. Member that corporal punishment is going out of use, and I should certainly be indisposed formally to prohibit it when I am persuaded such a course is not desirable.

MR. PICKERSGILL: Is it not in the discretion of the teacher to make the entries in the punishment book?

MR. BIRRELL: I regret that discretion. I think he should be obliged to do it.

*DR. COOPER: Is a punishment book kept in the infants' department?

MR. BIRRELL: I will inquire.

### Aignish Crofter Settlement, Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will state the name and occupation of the person who valued the land which forms the crofter settlement at Aignish, Island of Lewis, and who set out the crofts and fixed the rents.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The farm of Aignish was lotted out by a member of the Crofters Commission acting for the Congested Districts Board and the rents were fixed by that body also on behalf of the Congested Districts Board with the approval of the proprietor.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentlemen give me the name of the incompetent person who is responsible for this?

MR. SINCLAIR: No, Sir. The Congested Districts Board are ultimately responsible.

### Sanitation at Cromarty and Stornoway.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the recent report by Dr. Dittmar, the medical inspector for Scotland, on the general sanitary condition of the burgh of Cromarty; and will he consider the expediency of directing the medical inspector to prepare a similar report in regard to the burgh of Stornoway.

MR. SINCLAIR: The report on Cromarty is not, I am advised, of sufficient general interest to justify its being printed as a Parliamentary Paper. The Local Government Board for Scotland have not received any complaints which would lead them to suppose that there is any urgent or exceptional reason for instituting an immediate medical inspection of Stornoway, which will be over taken by the medical inspector in due course.

### Foreign Trawlers off the Scotch Coast.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has yet consulted with the Law Officers of the Crown as to the steps to be taken to check illegal trawling by foreign trawlers, in view of the unanimous decision of the Judges of the High Court of Justiciary at

Edinburgh, in respect of the Moray Firth foreign trawler's case.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The subject is under the consideration of the Government, and at present I cannot with any further advantage add to the information which is at present available to the public.

### Blackpool Post Office.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will take steps to hasten the revision of the clerical staff of the Blackpool Post Office, now two years' overdue, in view of the fact that the staff is the same as it was eight years ago, in spite of the increase of work due to the rapid growth of the town.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): A revision of the indoor force at the Blackpool Post Office is in preparation, and will, I hope, be shortly carried out. It is not the case, as suggested by the hon. Member, that the staff has remained stationary for the last eight years, increases having been made from time to time to meet increase of work.

Mr. ASHLEY: But none in the clerical staff.

### Preston Post Office Revision.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the revision at the Preston Office, promised by him on 17th July, has yet been carried out.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The revision was carried out on the 26th August last. A few of the vacancies in connection with it have not yet been filled, but the matter is being expedited as much as possible.

### Sub-Postmasters' Holidays.

Mr. RAPHAEL (Derbyshire, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if arrangements can be made to grant an annual holiday to sub-postmasters and mistresses without deduction of salary.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: This is a question that may be affected by the Report of the Committee on Postal Servants. I am therefore unable to deal with it until the Committee has reported.

### Stoke-on-Trent Post Office.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can give the date on which negotiations were first opened between his department and the North Stafford Railway Company with reference to the building of a new post office at Stoke-on-Trent; whether the proceedings are being delayed by a demand on the part of his department that the proposed office should be built by the company upon their land, and the inability of the company to provide land for that purpose; and whether he has any other adjacent alternative site under consideration.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The Question of a new post office at Stoke-on-Trent was first discussed with the North Staffordshire Railway Company about four years ago. There is no difference with the company of the nature suggested by the hon. Member, and I have not therefore thought it necessary to consider an alternative site. I hope that the matter will now make progress.

### Maindee West Signal Box.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been directed to the fact that on Friday evening, 19th October, Mr. Edward Morgan, being then in sole charge of the Maindee West signal-box, the most important in the Newport district, had a paralytic seizure, and that, with extraordinary presence of mind, he locked all signals at danger before losing consciousness; whether he will direct the attention of the Great Western Railway Company to the danger both to the health of signalmen and the travelling public which arises from the practice of placing a man for long hours in solitary confinement in an important signal-box; and whether he can state to what extent this practice prevails on the Great Western and other British railways.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. Kearley, Devonport): I have no information other than references in the

Press with regard to the case mentioned by my hon. friend. I am advised that, except at large signal-boxes at terminal stations and important junctions, it is the usual custom for one signalman to be alone in charge of the box. I am not aware that this practice has led to accidents, and the matter does not appear to be one that calls for any action on the part of the Board of Trade. The normal position of a signal is, of course, at danger.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: Does the hon. Gentleman approve of only one man being in charge of so important a signal-box?

MR. KEARLEY: We will make representations on the subject.

### Census of Production Bill.

MR. LIDDELL (Down, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if an agreement has been arrived at between the Board of Trade and the manufacturers of this country as to the form the Government inquiries shall take under the Census of Production Bill; when this Bill will be considered by the Standing Committee on Trade; and will he take care, considering the leakage of Government official secrets in the Press, that the utmost precautions be taken in the event of the Bill passing into law to ensure that the information compulsorily supplied by manufacturers to the Board of Trade shall not be available for foreign or trade rivals, particularly in view of the handicaps imposed by our fiscal system on home manufacturers.

MR. KEARLEY; My right hon friend has been in communication with a number of Members of this House and gentlemen outside this House possessing practical acquaintance with manufacture on certain points connected with the Census of Production Bill, and as a result of numerous conferences I propose setting down a number of Amendments limiting the nature of the inquiries to be made under the Bill. I also propose to insert a provision for the constitution of committees including representatives of various trades to advise the Board of Trade as to the form of the inquiries to be made under the Bill when passed into law. I hope that the Bill will be considered by the Grand Committee on Trade next Tuesday. Every care will be taken to make impossible any disclosure of information relating to individual firms or of a confidential nature, and stringent penalties are provided for in the Bill with this object.

### H.M.S. "Vigilant."

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many persons accompanied the deputy chairman of Customs on his recent tour of inspection of two months duration in the Customs' cruiser "Vigilant;" whether the party consisted of officials or of the family and private friends of the deputy chairman; if the latter, who paid their expenses and at what place were they taken on board.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouth, N.): The cruise in question, which was for the purpose of inspecting the East Coast ports as far as the Orkneys, lasted five weeks. The deputy chairman's party consisted of one friend, who joined at Lowestoft and was on board nearly the whole time; another who joined at Aberdeen and remained two weeks; and two boys, who started from Gravesend and remained four weeks. The deputy chairman paid the whole of their expenses.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is intended to supply the cruiser "Vigilant" with the electric light, a motor-pinnace, and a centre-board sailing-boat.

MR. MCKENNA: The Answer is in the negative. One of the "Vigilant's" rowing-boats was fitted a year ago with a centre-board, to which the crew of the boat in all probability owed their lives on the occasion of their being blown out to sea in a gale last April.

### Coast Protection.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, consequent upon the abolition of coastguard stations by the Admiralty, a departmental committee to inquire into the subject of coast protection has been or is to be appointed; and whether he will give the names of the gentlemen constituting such committee.

MR. McKENNA: This Question is under consideration, but the matter is regarded as confidential. I regret that for this reason I am unable at present to give any further information.

### Burwell Estate, Cambridgeshire.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state the terms upon which the Burwell Estate, in Cambridgeshire, has been let to the hon. Member for Newmarket, and whether his rent was fixed with the object of enabling him to sub-let in small holdings at rents within the means of the agricultural labourers whom he has displaced.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg also to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, into how many holdings has the Burwell Estate, in Cambridgeshire, been cut up, and what is the price per acre charged; and how this compares with rent charged by the Crown to the hon. Member for Newmarket.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): May I further ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what rent is obtained by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the Burwell Estate under the scheme of conversion into small holdings; and what restrictions, if any, were made as to the rent which the tenant may charge in sub-letting to small holders.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The farm at Burwell has been let to my hon. friend the Member for Newmarket on lease for twenty-one years at a rent of £700 a year in addition to land tax, drainage, and sewer rates and all other rates and taxes except landlords property tax and tithe. This is the full market price for land in the neighbourhood. In addition the Commissioners have agreed to spend not less than £1,500 in alterations and additions to the buildings and cottages, and on this sum my hon. friend pays interest at 4 per cent. per annum. No restrictions were made as to the rent charged to my hon. friend's sub-tenants. The responsibility of the Commissioners ended when the lease was signed and they are in no way concerned with the subsequent arrangements made by my hon. friend, but I am authorised by him to say that he has divided it into fifty-nine holdings, and that he has charged his tenants rent sufficient to cover the rent he is paying together with interest on all outlay and a sufficient margin for expenses of management.

MR. WINFREY (Norfolk, S.W.): Arising out of that Question I beg to ask the hon. Baronet whether it is not a fact that previous to this farm being divided into small holdings the Commissioners of Woods and Forests had for two years failed to find a tenant to take it, and had farmed it themselves without profit to the Crown. And whether it is not a fact that everyone of the displaced labourers has secured equally good terms of employment in the neighbourhood and a considerable number much better payment than they were receiving under the Crown.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: Yes, Sir.

MR. LONSDALE: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that that Question was asked by a Member of Parliament who acts as private secretary to the President of the Board of Agriculture?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: I do not see that that has anything to do with it.

MR. H. H. MARKS: Can the hon. Gentleman say if any one of the thirty-nine labourers dispossessed by the granting of this lease has been put into the newly created holdings?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: I am informed that all the labourers working on the estate had an opportunity of taking a holding and eight or nine did so.

### Sir Antony MacDonnell.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a speech recently delivered by Sir Antony MacDonnell foreshadowing Home Rule or devolution legislation for Ireland; and will he say whether it was made with the sanction and approval of the Chief Secretary and the Cabinet.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.): The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative, and to the latter part in the negative.

### Claremorris Union Clerkship.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a meeting of Roman Catholic priests of the deanery of Claremorris, where a resolution was recently adopted demanding that no person should be appointed to the office of clerk to the Claremorris Union unless furnished with a character from his parish priest; and, if so, whether, on this or other such appointment being made, the Local Government Board will issue instructions that no clerical influence of this nature is to be allowed to weigh in the selection of candidates.

Mr. BRYCE: My attention had not been drawn to this matter, but I am informed by the Local Government Board that the resolution in question affirmed that the financial and moral condition of the union was essentially connected with the selection of a worthy clerk, and requested the district councillors to refuse their support to any candidate who should not produce a letter of character from his parish priest. The Local Government Board have no power to intervene in the manner suggested in the Question.

Captain CRAIG: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the district council actually passed a resolution, and published it in the Press, to the effect that no candidate would be eligible for election without a certificate of character from the parish priest?

Mr. BRYCE: The Local Government Board have no power to interfere.

Captain CRAIG: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of obtaining power? Does not this absolutely exclude anybody but a Roman Catholic from getting the position?

Mr. BRYCE: I should have assumed not.

### British Flag at the Munster-Connaught Exhibition.

Captain CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Lord Aberdeen performed the opening ceremony of the Munster-Connaught Exhibition, at which, by special resolution, it had been decided that the British flag should be excluded from the decoration of the exhibition premises, although many flags, including those of other nations, were freely displayed; whether His Excellency's attention was drawn to this resolution or to the absence of the British flag before he performed the opening ceremony; and, if so, whether his presence at the exhibition under these circumstances received the sanction of His Majesty's Ministers.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers the Question, may I ask him what the British flag has to do with an Irish exhibition?

Mr. BRYCE: I do not suppose the hon. Member requires an Answer to a Question of so general a character. I have no information upon the subject of this Question. Matters relating to the personal action of the Lord-Lieutenant, especially on these ceremonial occasions, lie entirely outside my official sphere.

Mr. JOYCE: In Limerick we will fly any flag we please.

Captain CRAIG: Are we to understand that the Lord-Lieutenant knew nothing whatever about this insult to the British flag, and, if the Government does know of the insult, have they connived at it, and are they satisfied that proper action was taken by the Lord-Lieutenant?

Mr. BRYCE: We knew nothing whatever about the matter.

An HON. MEMBER: Try and find out.

Captain CRAIG: Are we to understand that this visit of the Lord-Lieutenant was in his official capacity, or a purely personal one, and is there any precedent in the remaining part of the British Empire for an official——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman has said that he has no knowledge of this.

Captain CRAIG: If this is a personal matter, although I maintain it is an official matter——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman says he has no knowledge.

### Irish Language in National Schools.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received the statement put forward by the Gaelic League as a tentative and temporary scheme for the teaching of Irish in the national schools, and can he say what steps, if any, he proposes to take in consequence of these proposals.

Mr. BRYCE: I have received the statement referred to, which appears to contain proposals of a very far reaching nature, and have invited the opinion of the Commissioners of National Education upon these proposals. It is for the Commissioners to prepare estimates for the expenditure of money upon this and other branches of instruction, and I understand that they will consider the matter at their next meeting.

### Athenry Cattle Outrages.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the police have received reports of horse and cattle maiming outrages in the neighbourhood of Athenry during the last three months; how many of such cases have been reported; and what steps have been taken to discover the perpetrators.

Mr. BRYCE: The Inspector-General of Constabulary has during the past three months received reports of two cases of the nature referred to from the district of Athenry. The police have made every effort to clear up these cases and to bring offenders to justice, but have not so far succeeded in securing sufficient evidence against any person.

Mr. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): Is it not the fact that these outrages are alleged to have occurred on the property of Lord Clanricarde? Has not the claim for compensation been abandoned, and is it not believed that the claimant was a party to the outrage?

Mr. BRYCE: I have no information.

Mr. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire?

Mr. BRYCE: The police are inquiring.

### Loughrea District Council—Claims for Malicious Injury.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of claims for compensation for malicious injury now pending against the Loughrea District Council, and the total amount claimed in respect of them.

Mr. BRYCE: The Local Government Board have ascertained from the clerk of the Loughrea Rural District Council that the number of claims for compensation for malicious injury now pending against the Council is two, the amounts claimed being £80 and £35 respectively. I understand that there were other claims, but these have recently been disposed of at quarter sessions.

### Irish School Building Grants.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the last Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland with reference to the subject of building grants; whether he has been furnished with a return of unsuitable schoolhouses, and the amount required to place defective school buildings in a satisfactory position; and whether any arrangement has yet been arrived at with the Treasury so as to remove the existing deadlock in the matter of building grants.

Mr. BRYCE: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the return of unsuitable school-houses which they are having prepared is not yet complete. As soon as it has been completed, the

Commissioners intend to make an estimate of the amount required to place defective school buildings in a satisfactory condition. The Commissioners have, at the request of the Treasury, prepared new plans of school-houses, and are about to submit these for consideration. The correspondence upon the subject of building grants generally is proceeding, and I have every reason to hope that the matter is now approaching completion.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): May we expect any definite action this year?

Mr. BRYCE: I can hardly say. The matter is taking more time than was anticipated.

### Strabane Labourers' Cottages Acts.

Mr. McVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the inquiry shortly to be held in the Strabane Union as to the administration of the Labourers Acts in Strabane No. 2 Rural District, and its scope, limited to any neglect made by the clerk in carrying out his duties under the Acts; whether he is aware that the Local Government Board has refused to extend the scope of the inquiry so as to include the delay on the part of the council in considering applications lodged with them by labourers for cottages, in some instances four years ago, which were not considered till March last; and, if so, whether he will take steps to secure that the question of delay, and all matters bearing on it, shall be fully inquired into.

Mr. BRYCE: The inquiry referred to in the Question relates to the conduct of the clerk personally in regard to the discharge of the various duties falling on him as clerk of the union, clerk of the council, and executive sanitary officer, and will not be limited, as is assumed by the Question, to any neglect of duty in the carrying out of the Labourers Acts. The general question of the administration of these Acts by the rural district council will, of course, receive the attention of the Board in due time, in pursuance of the powers conferred on the Board by Section 9 of the Labourers Act of 1906, which comes into operation to-morrow.

### Irish Primary Education Deficiencies.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to meetings recently held in Ireland connected with the subject of primary education, and at which resolutions were passed dealing with the deficiencies of the system, the understaffing of the schools, and their insanitary condition, and alleged grievances of teachers in regard to salaries, promotion, and other conditions of employment; whether he is aware that the Commissioners of National Education have made application for a sum of £10,000 for the improvement and upkeep of the school buildings; and what steps, if any, he has taken in placing the Commissioners' application before the Treasury authorities.

Mr. BRYCE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. In the second part of the Question, the hon. Member probably refers to the statement made in the Commissioners' last annual Report, to the effect that in their opinion it was necessary that £100,000 a year (not £10,000 as stated in the Question) should be placed at their disposal for the next five years for the purpose of making building grants. The Irish Government have for a considerable time past been in communication with the Treasury and the National Board upon the subject, and every effort is being made to bring the matter to a speedy conclusion.

Mr. FLYNN: The right hon. Gentleman admits that the condition of primary education in Ireland is unsatisfactory. Will he use his influence with the Treasury to get a grant as a matter of extreme urgency?

Mr. BRYCE was understood to say his influence was being used.

Mr. SLOAN: Why not allocate the development grant to this purpose?

Mr. BRYCE: That is subject to other charges.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when he intends to make any proposals as to primary education in Ireland, which he has stated to be unsatisfactory; if so, can he indicate the general principles of such proposals and the date at which they will be made; and whether he can now see his way to take any steps to deal with grievances which do not require any change in the law, such as the salaries, civil rights, and tenure of teachers, and the improvement and building of schools, and the provision of other requisites for the children.

MR. BRYCE: I am afraid that I cannot profitably add much to the reply which I gave to the hon. Member's Question of Monday last. The whole question of education in Ireland is receiving the careful consideration of the Irish Government, who are duly sensible of the defects in it, and who desire to take all steps within their power to remove those defects; but I am not at present in a position to make any statement on the subject.

### Malicious Injury Claims in Galway.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a number of claims for compensation for malicious injuries have been made in the county court for the East Riding of Galway for the Michaelmas Sessions 1906; will he state the number and nature of such claims and whether they include several claims for the mutilation of cattle and horses, and the destruction of walls; does the number exceed largely the number of claims at any recent county court sittings in the Riding; and has any person been made amenable to justice in respect of any, and, if so, how many, of the outrages which are the subject of such claims.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the police authorities that twenty-four claims for compensation for malicious injuries, came before the recent quarter sessions courts held in the East Riding of Galway. Of these, seven were in respect of malicious injuries to cattle and horses, and four in respect of injuries to walls. Out of the twenty-four cases, in twelve only was compensation awarded. Six cases were withdrawn, four dismissed, and two adjourned. The number of claims is, I am informed, considerably in excess of that at any recent sessions in the Riding. Arrests were made in two cases. In one, the defendant is awaiting trial, and in the other, the accused was discharged for want of evidence.

MR. FLYNN: Is there any Sergeant Sheridan operating in this district?

[No Answer was returned.]

### Judge Anderson and Crime in Galway County.

COLONEL McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the charge of Judge Anderson at recent quarter sessions in the County Galway relative to the increase of malicious injuries on that part of the county, as well as to remarks made by Mr. Gardener, R.M., at petty sessions at Athenry, on Saturday last, as to the condition of that part of the county; and will he say what were the reasons known to the police which induced the district inspector Royal Irish Constabularly to withdraw the cases against three men charged with firing with intent at a police constable; and whether the Government are taking steps to deal with these incidents?

MR. LONSDALE: May I also ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether three men arrested on charges of complicity in the recent murderous attack on Constable O'Halloran at Rockmore, near Athenry, have been discharged from custody; and whether he will state the grounds on which the prosecution of these men has been abandoned?

MR. BRYCE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. I am informed by the police authorities that the prosecution of the three men referred to was not proceeded with because there was not sufficient evidence to justify their further detention in custody. If further evidence should be forthcoming, the case will be proceeded with. It is, I regret to say, the fact that the district of Athenry is not in a satisfactory condition. The police are doing their utmost to preserve the peace, and twenty-five extra men from the reserve force have been sent to assist them in that duty.

### Lisnagry Evicted Tenant.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether anything has been done towards the re-instatement of Patrick Ryan, evicted tenant of Lisnagry, county Limerick, either to place him back on his own land or, failing this, to give him another piece of land in Larne townland as a fair equivalent for the land from which he was evicted?

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that Mr. Ryan's application, which was received on 26th June last, will be inquired into as soon as possible, regard being had to other applications received at an earlier date.

### Government Appointments and Ex-Service Men.

Sir SAMUEL SCOTT (Marylebone, W): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that only forty-four per centum of the established messengerships in Government offices have during the last three years been granted to ex-service men; and whether, in view of the fact that ex-service men are eminently suited for these posts, he will give instructions that for the future ex-service men are to be appointed to these posts, provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs): I believe that the figures of the hon. Member are correct; but after giving consideration to the matter, which has been brought to my attention on more than one occasion, I do not see my way to recommending that in future, ex-service men only are to be appointed to Government messengerships.

Mr. BYLES asked if the 56 per cent. of the persons appointed who were not accounted for in the Question had not served the country just as faithfully in the walks of peaceful industry.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I know nothing of the quality of the 56 per cent.

Sir SAMUEL SCOTT: Does the right hon. Gentleman approve of the appointment of ex-butlers and ex-footmen to these posts?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I should like to know something about them before I expressed an opinion. I disapprove any cast iron rule on the subject.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked whether there was any change in the arrangements for business announced ten days ago.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir. The Trade Disputes Bill will follow the Bill at present before the House.

## *NEW BILL.*

### EMPLOYMENT OF BARMAIDS BILL.

"To restrict the employment of barmaids," presented by Mr. Gooch, supported by Mr. Alden, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Henderson, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Maddison, and Mr. T. W. Russell; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 345.]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the Committee stage of the Plural Voting Bill, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House.)"—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 324; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 354.)

### AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Som's't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. H. (Eastbo'rne)
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hexh'm

Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Rbyurn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen. (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E.Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Goston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffork)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnarmara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'rary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Phillipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pemb'ke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th

Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Br'df'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon.T.(Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(SomersetE)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W.Dudley (S'thampton)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clachmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W. (Hull W.)
Wilson Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'd'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J.A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.
Beach,Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A. (Wor.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig, Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.
Hamilton, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Marrison-Boardley, Col. H. B
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col.Charles W.(Evesh'm
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliffe, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Watt, H. Anderson
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

## PLURAL VOTING BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 5 :—

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) moved an Amendment to secure that the qualification of a person who has exercised his option in favour of a Scottish constituency should not take effect till 1st January. He pointed out that the clause provided that the Secretary for Scotland might issue instructions for any purpose for which an Order in Council might be made under the Act and might also issue any instructions which were rendered necessary by the fact that the currency of the Parliamentary register in Scotland did not coincide with the calendar year, including instructions for prescribing some special manner in which the name of a person was to be marked on the register "whose notice of selection does" not take effect till the 1st day of January succeeding the day on which the register comes into force or whose notice of selection "ceases to operate" on the 31st day of December. His Amendment, he explained, was to leave out the words "whose notice of selection does," in order to insert the words "so that his qualification shall;" the Secretary for Scotland would under the clause have two alternatives before him. He could either ante date by two months the date on which the notice of selection takes effect, or he could post date by two months the date on which the new register came into force. Speaking as an English Member — he could hardly hope that Scottish Members would agree with him—he could not see that it was right, nor believed that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government that Scotland should get the advantage of two months in regard to this question. That was his reason for moving the Amendment. If the Secretary for Scotland did not accept the Amendment he hoped he would explain what course he intended to take. He should like also to point out to the Lord-Advocate that the Government, by accepting this Amendment, would obviate the unpleasant contingencies to which he so humorously alluded the night before. There would be no question of a man crossing the Border one way and losing two months, or the other way and gaining two months, and his qualification would take effect on the 1st January in all portions of the United Kingdom, as well as his notice of selection, as was laid down by Clause 1, sub-section (1) of this Bill. His Amendment would ensure absolute equality and fairness to all classes of voters in all parts of the country. No other course could be adopted except to ante date or post date the time when the provision came into effect. That would be unfair in one case or the other to those electors who resided north or south of the Tweed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, lines 17 and 18, to leave out the words 'whose notice of selection does,' in order to insert the words 'so that his qualification shall.'"—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said the words suggested by the Amendment would have very little effect or importance, and would make no difference whatever. The words that the Government had chosen would completely cover the case of the current year, which in Scotland was divided into two portions of ten months and two months. The case had been covered by the notice of selection not taking effect till January.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the Committee as a whole was not in a very good position to judge of this matter, and it was only Scottish Members who would be greatly interested in it. He thought they would be much better off if the right hon. and learned Gentleman would tell them what his proposal was as to the day of selection or registration, or what was the proposed position of the Scottish plural voter, or the voter who had a qualification in Scotland as well as in England after the Bill became law. They knew precisely what the position of the plural voter would be in England, when the notice would be given, and when the register would come into force. They had no such accurate knowledge in regard to Scotland, but the Government, no doubt, knew what were the regulations which the Secretary for Scotland was going to introduce. The Government must also know how they intended to deal with the technical difficulty which would arise owing to the fact that the register would not come into operation on the same day in the two countries, as it would come into operation in England on the 1st January, and in Scotland on 1st November.

MR. THOMAS SHAW did not think that the right hon. Gentleman had substantially challenged, wholly or in part, what he had said. The explanation which he had given was a reasonable one, namely, that in Clause 1 of the Bill, now passed, the currency of the vote on the register was for a calendar year. They must take the facts as they found them. These were that the Scottish registers ran from November to November, and, accordingly, when a selection was made that selection would come into operation during the current year, that is, on 1st January. Where there was an English qualification for the year that must be fixed by the currency of the register from January to January. If the selection was made in Scotland it must be made from January to November, and if in England, from January to January. If, however, the Scottish register were properly marked, the selection of the registered voters would be made to qualify for the extra two months, so that he would suffer no disfranchisement as compared with his English selection.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he wished to understand the right hon. Gentleman. Let them take the case of Mr. A., who was entitled to a vote in Scotland and in England also. When 6th September came he made his selection in regard to his Scottish qualification. Was he qualified to vote in England from November till the following January if he wished to do so? Would he have to wait till the 1st January before he could get a vote in England?

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said the question made the point very clear. He had no vote in England until the disqualification imposed by his selection of a vote in Scotland had disappeared from the current register. If in September he had exercised his option in favour of Scotland it remained for the current year and was continued for the balance of the year, viz., two months up to the 1st January.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR inquired where, supposing an election took place in November, an elector who had made a selection would vote.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said he could also answer that. Supposing an election came in November, if a voter had exercised an option to vote in Scotland, he would not in the interval be able to vote in England. He would still have to vote in Scotland. They could not have the Scottish option deprived of its effect until the time when the English rights accrued, viz., 1st January.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said that while they were very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for the explanations which he had made, he had listened to his remarks with amazement, because now for the first time they had some indication of what the Government proposed to do. They were proposing to give to the Secretary for Scotland power to make an order which, so far as the plural voter in Scotland was concerned, would change the currency of the register. The Secretary for Scotland was, it appeared, to be empowered to say to the plural voter, "For you the currency of the register shall no longer be the 1st of November till the 1st November, but the 1st January till the 1st January." [Cries of "No."] Surely that was the practical effect of the right hon. Gentleman's proposal, but he and other Scottish Members were opposed to any change of the register in Scotland. He should, therefore, be inclined to vote against the Amendment of his hon. friend because it proposed such a change. The Government were not only going to give the Secretary for Scotland power to modify one Act of Parliament, but two. The First Commissioner of Works had never given them any hint of this at all, although he had said there would be some difficulty in dealing with Scotland. This was the first intimation they had had that the Secretary for Scotland was to be entrusted with these powers, which were not to be executed by any Order in Council.

SIR. F. BANBURY (City of London) said he understood the position was that there would be no change for the ordinary Scottish voters. Supposing a man had two or three qualifications, there would be no change and the register would go from the 1st November to 1st November as it did now. If a man had a qualification in England and Scotland the register would be changed, and if he exercised his selection in Scotland the Secretary for Scotland would come in and say there should be another register. In Scotland there would be two registers, one prepared by the body which performed the duties of the overseers and another prepared by the Secretary for Scotland. This was the first time in the history of the country that a man's qualifications on the register would be settled not by the overseers but by an official. It would be very confusing, because the voter would have to search two registers. Where would the second register be kept? Of all the absurdities which had been introduced into the Bill this was the greatest. Some Scottish Members opposite yesterday had the courage to defend their country, and he hoped they would go a little further to-day and save Scotland from being placed in this extremely anomalous position.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said this Order was simply intended to fill up the gap which would otherwise be a disfranchising gap for a few months.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) thought there was still time for the Government to put something into the Bill in regard to what they proposed to do. The Lord-Advocate had said that this was not a franchise Bill, and he had also stated that it was impossible to make any alteration in the Registration Laws of Scotland under this measure. In his opinion this was very largely a franchise Bill, or at any rate it was a disfranchising Bill, because it affected the votes of a great many people. The matter was sufficiently important for some definite step to be taken by the Government to get over the difficulty. He appealed to the Lord-Advocate to deal with the matter before they proceeded any further with the discussion of the clause. [MINISTERIAL laughter.] Hon Members opposite laughed, but their laughter was very largely the laughter of ignorance and all they were able to do was to vote and laugh. He trusted that the Lord-Advocate would consider the suggestion he had made and take some steps to get over this undoubted and real difficulty.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) asked what would happen in case a man with two qualifications, one for England and another for Scotland, changed his mind and desired to vote in Scotland?

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said that the claim would be made in September and he would go on the register in November, but a mark would be placed against the name to show that he was disqualified during the period he was an English voter.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMPSON said this was a most complicated arrangement. Personally he had never denied that there was a great difficulty to be faced in this matter, and he thought that in some respects the Government proposal got over the difficulty. He wished to know, however, whether the Lord-Advocate proposed to get over the difficulty by allowing the Secretary for Scotland on his own initiative to modify two Acts of Parliament. That was a method of procedure to which he would never consent.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said this clause was drawn to enable orders to be written out in such a way that there would be no disfranchisement on the one hand and that, on the other hand, all the Scottish voters would be in the position that they would be deprived of the plural voting privilege which at present existed. There was no desire or intention to go beyond the provisions of the existing Act of Parliament.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) rose to speak.

MR. THOMAS SHAW rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 325; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 355.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B. (H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Haml'ts, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred J. (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'hs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph

Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampt'n
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edin'b'gh, Central
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, F. T. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestershire, N
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Hudd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.A (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collngs, Rt. Hn.J (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain J. (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans- (T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir C. (Shrewsbury)
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Fredk. Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin

Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The House divided:—Ayes, 337; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 356.)

### AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barker, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn W. C. B. (Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Black, A. W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J T (Cheshire
Bryce J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, W.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs.)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
McCallum, John M.

McCrae, George
McKenna, Reginald
McKillop, W.
McLaren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
McMicking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Horthants)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Doherty, Philip.
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampt'n
Philipps, J Wynford (Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, J. (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J.D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn-(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Hudd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North.)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans (T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury

Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
McCalmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Bull and Mr. Watson Rutherford.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW moved to substitute "sheriff" for the word "county" in the first line of sub-section (2) of Clause 5. He said he had investigated how the statutory provisions stood in regard to Scotland, and he found that it was the Sheriff-Clerk who ought properly to have charge of the duties involved.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 22, to leave out the word 'county,' and insert the word 'sheriff."—(*Mr. Thomas Shaw.*)

Question proposed, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs) said that technically no doubt the right hon. Gentleman was right in what he said, but it appeared to him that the more proper official in Scotland to whom the notice should be sent was the assessor, who was an expert on the subject, besides being a much more capable official to exercise the duty, and much more likely to do it correctly. Anyone who knew anything about these assessors in Scotland knew that they were absolutely independent of anyone, and did their work admirably, and he did not think they ought to be superseded in this way.

*MR. THOMAS SHAW said with a very large portion of the speech of the hon. Gentleman he entirely agreed, especially with regard to the functions of the assessors. He did not know any set of public officials who performed such a useful service from one end of Scotland to the other. They saved thousands of pounds to Scotland compared with similar expense incurred in England. If the hon. Gentleman looked at the second subsection of Clause 1, he would see that the notice of selection must be sent to the clerk of the county council or town clerk who was responsible for the printing of the parliamentary register of the selected constituency. He had investigated the statutes, and he found that in England no doubt it was quite true that the clerk of the county council or the town clerk was responsible for the printing of the parliamentary register. In Scotland, however, it was not the assessor but the Sheriff-Clerk alone, who had charge of the printing of the register.

MR. YOUNGER said it was generally the assessor who saw that it was done.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said whether that was so or not would not at all affect the point that in an Act of Parliament they must put the responsibility upon the identical officer who had charge of the printing. He had considered this matter very carefully, and he hoped the Committee would accept his assurance that his proposal was the right one.

Question put, and negatived.

Question put, "That the word 'sheriff' be there inserted."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 349; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 357.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry

Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, JosephA. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,John Emmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn.SirJ.T(Cheshire
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt. Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E.Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col. Alan (Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A. Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J. M. (FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G.Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William

O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banner, John S. Harmood
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hunt, Rowland
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttleton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard | Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm | TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Sir William Bull. |
| Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire) | Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart- | |
| Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.) | Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George | |

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 23, at end, to add the words, 'and Section 3 of the Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1880, shall be substituted for Section 81 of the Parliamentary Voters' Registration Act, 1843; and the expression 'university' shall include a combination of universities.'"—(*Mr. Thomas Shaw.*)

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD moved to add words to provide that nothing in Section 5 should enable the Secretary for Scotland to modify or vary any Act of Parliament. He gathered from the explanation given by the Lord-Advocate that he would probably not be unwilling to accept such an Amendment. It appeared to him that when giving extensive powers to the Secretary for Scotland to issue instructions it should be perfectly clear that if some Acts of Parliament were to be modified or varied it should be done by Parliament and not by the Secretary for Scotland. They ought to know what was to be altered, and what, if anything, was to be put in its place. If the intention was that the Secretary for Scotland should only be empowered to issue instructions for the purpose of enabling this Act to be carried out it seemed to him that the Government might accept the Amendment. If it was intended that the Secretary for Scotland should be able to issue instructions of such a character that he would be able to alter or vary Acts of Parliament, then he thought they ought to oppose the clause as far as possible.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words 'Provided always that nothing contained in this section shall empower the Secretary for Scotland to alter or modify the terms of any Act of Parliament.'" — (*Mr. William Rutherford.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. THOMAS SHAW said the hon. Member might take it from him that there was no desire to go one iota beyond the provisions of the Act of Parliament. After all, if he might say so without offence, he thought a great deal more had been made of these Orders in Council, and the instructions to be issued by the Secretary for Scotland, than really they were worth. When they came to examine the proposal they would find that substantially what the Order in Council was to provide for was the kind of mark to be put on the register. The Order in Council was to give some practical guidance to those in charge of the making up of the register. In the case of Scotland that was to be done by the Secretary for Scotland with the supplementary provision that he should give instructions for the extra marking caused by the difference in the statutory year for the register in Scotland from the calendar year to which the English register applied. There was no necessity for the stipulation proposed by the hon. Member. No one could believe that it would enter the mind of any officer to go beyond the law. Anything he did in that way would be null and void and of absolutely no effect whatever. If the words of the Amendment were added the clause would be awkward. It might raise a question as to why Parliament had made the stipulation. Between now and the Report stage he would be willing to consider the whole point. He did not think the hon. Member would wish him to go further at this stage. He would very carefully consider the point with those advisers who were skilled in the framing of such clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that nobody could complain of the tone or substance of the remarks of the right hon. and learned Gentleman; but it must have been noticed that even in the course of his explanation he had admitted that there was by this Bill a very wide distinction between the functions of those entrusted with the preparation of Orders in Council and those which were to be entrusted to the Secretary for Scotland. That was not due to any ill-will on the part of the Government, but to the accident of the difference between the registers of Scotland and England. The result, however, was that much wider powers would be entrusted to the Secretary for Scotland than were found necessary in the case of the corresponding authorities in England. The right hon. and learned Gentleman had told the Committee, and they were bound to accept his assurance as representing the intentions of the Government, that to the best of his belief no existing statute would be altered by the regulations laid down by the Secretary for Scotland. Of course, the right hon. and learned Gentleman would be the first to admit that a mere statement by a Minister of the Crown that certain powers given by this House would not be misused, would not be a justification for putting excessive powers in a statute. Governments changed and Members of the Government changed, but this House had to legislate for the whole period between the passing of a statute and its repeal. They were, therefore, bound to watch with a very jealous eye any powers given to an executive officer dealing with modification of Acts of Parliament. He thought they should not give such powers except after the most careful consideration. The right hon. and learned Gentleman had laid down the proposition that anything done by the Secretary for Scotland in contravention of existing statutes would be null and void. He quite agreed that if those acts were null and void there would be no use in his hon. friend moving these words. But would that be so? The right hon. and learned Gentleman might be a greater master of legal interpretation than he was, but supposing that under the words of the statute when passed into law as it now stood, the action of the Secretary for Scotland was challenged in Court and the Secretary for Scotland said, "In obedience to an Act of Parliament I have no doubt modified previous statutes, but the Court will observe that I did not modify them more than was absolutely necessary in order to make the Act workable."

Would that be nullified? He did not think it would be. In the first place they must be assured that there was no power to modify statutes, and in the second place that all that was to be done could be done without modifying statutes. He hoped the right hon. and learned Gentleman would make this perfectly clear and that between now and the Report stage he would work out the exact regulations which the Secretary for Scotland would have to issue in order to make the Bill workable. When the right hon. and learned Gentleman did that and convinced himself that nothing required to be modified, surely the natural susceptibilities of the House would be met if he inserted some words of the kind suggested by the Amendment of his hon. friend. There might be precedents for granting powers to particular officers of the Crown of modifying statutes, but they must be very rare; and he earnestly pressed the Government to preserve a perfectly sound precedent and to limit the possibility of any abuse of the general principles of legislation by taking care that legislation should only be modified by legislation and that the Executive of the Crown should be strictly limited as to the instructions to be laid down by them.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW said it was only just to the Committee to say that he was very much obliged for the observations of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, who had stated exactly the nature and character of the difficulties which were in his own mind.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that it must be obvious to the right hon. and learned Gentleman in charge of this clause of the Bill that he had the advantage of those who sat on the Opposition side of the House, because he probably knew what the instructions were to be, while they did not. He took it that between now and the Report stage the matter would be sifted, and that the right hon. and learned Gentleman would be able to say whether the instructions did or did not require any modifications of Acts of Parliament. In the event of his finding that the instructions might modify an Act of Parliament he suggested that the right hon. and learned Gentleman should tell the House on the Report stage the exact manner in which it was intended to vary or alter such Act of Parliament.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) called the attention of the right hon. and learned Gentleman to two specific cases where modification of an Act of Parliament would have to be made. There was Section 13 of the

Registration of Voters (Scotland) Act, which said that "the said printed book or books as signed in any burgh should be regarded as the list of persons entitled to vote," and there was the 31st section of the Registration of County Voters (Scotland) Act, where a similar provision would have to be varied.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said that that was a very just and useful interposition. It was on account of just such a proviso that he would be deceiving the Committee if he accepted a broad Amendment saying that there should be no interference with any Act of Parliament. What they must do was to provide that the Secretary for Scotland should not do more in his executive capacity than Parliament desired. He did not wish to mislead the Committee by giving them to understand that he was pledged to the text of the regulations, because Orders in Council could not be produced until the whole of the statute had been passed by both Houses of Parliament.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that after the explanation of the right hon. and learned Gentleman he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment, leaving the matter to be dealt with on the Report stage.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said he wished to point out some very serious administrative difficulties which were involved in this clause, and he thought in doing so he would have some sympathy from many Members of the Liberal Party in Scotland. He joined most fully in the gratitude expressed by the Leader of the Opposition for the most courteous attitude of the right hon. and learned Lord-Advocate, and for the clearness of the observations which he had made; but the right hon. and learned Gentleman would forgive him for saying that he had failed, from oversight, to answer some of the questions which had been raised in the debate. He wished to deal with this matter not in its legal aspects but on broad constitutional grounds of a most important kind for Scotland. He thought that not all the Members for Scotland would quite join in the trustful optimism shown by the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy. He wished to make a strong protest against the clause on the ground that this was legislation by reference of the most pronounced and worst kind. He had had the advantage, or disadvantage, of a very long administrative experience, and one thing which more than another had impressed itself upon him was the serious inexpediency of permanent officials or officials of any kind venturing to legislate by Minute. Over and over again the right hon. Gentleman had himself joined in those denunciations and had told them, amid the plaudits of his supporters, that this was a thing which must be brought to a conclusion. Let them see what these much-abused Minutes had aimed at doing. Occasionally by Minutes or Orders in Council necessary sums had to be expended and points of administrative detail of the minutest kind had to be settled. Matters which during the course of the year might occur and which no one could foresee had to be dealt with by these Minutes. These Minutes were necessarily laid upon the Table of the House, and the House had the right to criticise and to debate upon them. They had no effect until the House of Commons sanctioned them. Under Clause 5 of this Bill the process by Order in Council, which applied to England, was not to apply to Scotland. He had asked the reason of this, pointing out that in Scotland Orders in Council were just as frequent, and just as usual as in England. An Order in Council, he reminded the Committee, had necessarily to be published in the *Gazette*. It might be laid upon the Table of the House, and Parliament might exercise its Imperial functions in regard to it. Why, therefore, had they not the same process of Order in Council made applicable to Scotland? There were not even to be orders of the Secretary for Scotland. The words used were that the Secretary for Scotland might "issue instructions"—not an order which would stand the brunt of criticism in the House, but instructions which might be issued to various people from time to time, modified as seemed expedient, and which, for all they knew, might not necessarily be uniform. An intricate Bill had been laid before the House, and he supposed that when it came to applying it to Scotland, where the electoral law was not in all respects the same, where the currency of the electoral year was different, and where the agencies through which the law was carried out were entirely different, it was found difficult to have entirely separate and independent clauses in the Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman came to the conclusion that the best way to deal with the situation was to cut the Gordian knot altogether, and say he would not deal with it by the Act of Parliament, and would not introduce provisions different from those applicable to England—provisions which practically would amount to a new Bill—but would trust to the Secretary for Scotland and, as they could not foresee all the possible difficulties, give him absolute discretion and add to his administrative powers so that he might meet any difficulty which arose by issuing special instructions as might seem to him fit. He knew that complaints such as he was now making had been made over and over again by Members on the opposite Benches who were his colleagues in the representation of Scotland, and he hoped that they were not of the Tom Acres species of politicians who, strong and courageous on the hustings, dared not express their views in opposition to the Treasury Bench. He hoped they would have the courage of their opinions. He did not doubt their sincerity, but they should remember that in Scotland interpretations far from pleasant might be placed upon their absence from the debate. They had the vital interests of Scotland in their power, and he thought it was far from creditable to them that they should have left it to one of the despised and discredited University Members to stand up for them. He considered Scotland had also another grievance in the fact that the Secretary for Scotland had not given them the benefit of his advice and assistance. The right hon. Gentleman underrated his own authority in the House, and the respect in which he was held. He made his protest, not in any way as touching the merits of the Bill—that would be out of order—but against the inclusion of Scotland within the provisions of the Bill by a clause which did not take adequate account of the different circumstances, but which rivetted upon Scotland government by Minute and instruction in a far more pronounced and pernicious form than it had ever taken before. Someone had objected to the clause because it was legislation by reference. It was far worse. It could not be legislation by reference, because it would be difficult to find another Act of Parliament which would compare with the provisions of this clause. It was legislation by delegation, and that of the worst sort. It was not delegation to any Provincial Council or a Home Rule Bill; it was not delegation to any local authority—it was legislation by delegation to officials. In the name of Scottish Members be protested against it.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) said he could not but associate himself with the animadversions which had been uttered by his hon. friend as to the unfair attitude which had been adopted by the Government. This was especially remarkable, as the one person in whose hands the electoral fortunes of Scotland rested was absent. He did not wish to drive home the pusillanimous and chicken-hearted conduct of Scottish Members opposite in regard to a question which concerned their interests and those of their constitnents. His principal object was to put to the Lord Advocate one simple question. The right hon. Gentleman had told them in the hypothetical case put by the Leader of the Opposition of the English elector who on the 1st of November selected a Scottish constituency, that so far as Scotland was concerned he would be debarred from exercising his vote, but in England he would still be allowed to exercise it if an election took place in November or December. If in Scotland an election took place in those months an elector who asked for a voting paper would be confronted with the question whether he happened to be on any other registar in any other constituency. Of course he would have to answer in the affirmative, and he would not be allowed to vote between November and January.

SIR F. BANBURY said though he listened attentively to the speech of the hon. Member who opened the debate on this clause, he was no wiser at the end of that speech than at the beginning. It seemed to him that the apprehensions in the mind of the hon. Member were very great, and that the consequences of the Bill might be very disastrous to Scotland. The Lord Advocate, on the other hand, had shown very clearly and very lucidly what the effect of this clause would be, and after listening to the right hon. Gentleman he had come to the conclusion that there were two very serious objections to it. The first was that it would make the register of Scotland very complicated, and would cause great confusion in the minds of those who had plural qualifications. It would be very difficult for a voter with a double qualification to find out whether, if he exercised his vote, he would be subject to some of the penalties which had been referred to. Orders in Council were laid on the Table of this House and published in the *Gazette*, and although it was difficult for an ordinary voter to find out what an Order in Council contained, if he was a very keen politician he could no doubt find from the *Gazette* what his position was. But in this particular case, so far as the Committee was aware, there was no provision for publishing in any way the Orders which the Secretary of Scotland might issue. He might issue them without even telling anyone in the Scottish Office that he had issued them, and it would be quite impossible to find out what steps were to be taken in respect of them. That was a very serious objection to the clause. If it made it more difficult for a gentleman to exercise his vote it was to be deplored. The second objection was that power was being placed in the hands of the Secretary for Scotland that had never before been put into the hands of any Minister. The Lord Advocate, in answer to a question by the hon. Member, put very clearly the difficulty he was in. The right hon. Gentleman said the Amendment was a good one but that the Secretary for Scotland would not do anything which would abrogate or nullify an Act of Parliament, and that being so it appeared to him that it was unnecessary for the Amendment to be inserted. But the right hon. Member for East Worcestershire got up and read extracts from two Acts of Parliament, and the right hon. Gentleman admitted their truth and professed to be glad of the interruption because he said it showed the difficulty in which he was placed, inasmuch as it was absolutely necessary if the provisions of this clause were to be carried out to insure that the Secretary for Scotland should have power to alter the two Acts of Parliament of which only a few words had been read. That was a very serious objection. He should strongly object to any official arrogating to himself the powers that ought to be exercised by this House, and in that way altering Acts of Parliament which had only been placed upon the Statute-book after considerable deliberation.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW said in regard to the difficulties presented in this clause the Committee would excuse him going over all the points again, because he had already explained them to the Committee with much elaboration, and in the position in which the Committee found itself it was not fair to ask for an explanation to each legal point as it arose. He did not wish the Committee to misconstrue his views, but he submitted to them that every one of these points had been considered except that which he had discussed with the Leader of the Opposition. The senior Member for the City of London had again raised these questions, and he begged the right hon. Gentleman to accept the assurance that all of them were being considered. As to the taunt thrown at the Scottish Members by the hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, he could have wished the hon. Member had stopped before he got to loggerheads with his Scottish colleagues. He was sure the hon. Member would not place any unpleasant construction on the action of the Scottish Members in this matter, and if he did not, nobody else would. He again assured the Committee that there was no fear whatever of the Department of the Secretary for Scotland going beyond the scope of the Act of Parliament. Speaking of the Scottish Members generally, he thought he could say that in their judgment the question had been thoroughly threshed out, and that the situation had been clarified by the discussions. They were all agreed that this was a good, ship-shape clause.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the right hon. Gentleman had been so genial and courteous that he was sure there would be no disposition in any part of the Committee to deal harshly with him. He did not, however, think the concessions or the promises which the right hon. Gentleman had made could be said to remove their objections to this clause, but they had very sensibly mitigated their objections to the clause in its final form. He would only add a few words in the nature of a plea to the right hon. Gentleman that he would not be too hard upon the Opposition for taking the opportunity on the Question being put that the clause stand part of the Bill, to summarise the arguments which had been used against the clause on individual Amendments to that clause. He would merely enter a mild protest against the censure of the right hon. Gentleman, and venture to suggest that on reflection he would admit that the discussion had been essentially businesslike. The Government themselves had admitted frequently that on the points raised by the Opposition the Bill had required amendment, and even when the Government had refused Amendments, it was because they were of so substantial a nature that they would have altered one of the principles of the measure.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR urged the Lord-Advocate that he should simplify the Order in Council as much as possible, so that every voter in Scotland might be able to understand it. The whole of the Bill, and especially this clause, made it very difficult for a voter to understand exactly what he had got to do and the nature of the penalties he would incur. According to "Rogers on Elections," a person might vote even when deaf, dumb, or blind, and in some cases when imbecile. If a person could show by signs or otherwise that he knew the purpose for which he had gone to the poll, the obligations of an oath, and the dangers of perjury, a returning officer was not justified in refusing the vote. That being so, it was to be hoped that the Lord Advocate and the Secretary for Scotland would make the Order in Council as simple as possible, otherwise a poor man from some misapprehension of the meaning of such an Order might incur all the rigorous penalties which this Bill imposed. He wished to add his humble tribute to the Lord Advocate for the great courtesy he had displayed during the debate.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 364; Noes, 86. (Division List, No. 358.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B. (H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (D'v'np'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J.T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. G'nst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James

Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde,Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones,Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,Sir G.Scott (B'rdf'd
Robertson, J. W. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann,Sir C.E. (Manchester
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland,
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.

Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'th'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'd'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Wor.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, G'v'n
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliffe, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Henry Craik and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) moved a new clause to provide that no existing vote with a plural qualification should be affected by the Bill. He said it was clear that in the United Kingdom all those persons who had more than one vote would, in the future, not be able to exercise them. When the right hon. Gentleman introduced this measure he said that its value was in inverse ratio to its size. After listening to the interesting debates which had taken place he thought hon. Members would agree that there were many points of difficulty in the Bill which the Government had not realised when they framed it, which gave a maximum of inconvenience, and only a minimum of benefit. In the case of former measures of this kind it had always been stated—and Mr. Gladstone was very strong on this point—that they should not disfranchise voters who had votes under any circumstances whatever. He would like to point out that it was not unreasonable that those in the country who had votes for University candidates should continue to have them. But this Bill struck a great blow at University representation, and although it did not mean that University representation would cease to exist, nevertheless it was perfectly plain that if the

Bill was passed in its present form it was not likely that University representation would continue. Another point he would like to draw attention to was with regard to the depletion which would take place amongst the rural voters. In many rural constituencies there would be a very large depletion, because they contained a much smaller average number of voters, and as there were a considerable number of plural voters, the total remaining would be exceedingly small and this would make the position very anomalous. It seemed to him that there were many ways in which this question could be dealt with in a more simple manner than the one now proposed. It had always been put forward by the Liberal Party that this question should be dealt with in such a manner that it would work automatically and simply, but he thought the Committee would agree with him that this measure was not at all a simple one. If, at the present time, the city of Birmingham was given representation on the same scale as Kilkenny there would be fifty-eight Members for Birmingham. A very large number of those who now possessed two or three votes appreciated the continuance of those votes, and he was sure there would be very little hardship to those who might become new plural voters. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would favourably consider his Amendment.

New clause—

"Nothing in this Act shall deprive any person (who at the date of the passing of this Act is registered in respect of any qualification to vote for any county or borough) of his right to be from time to time registered and to vote for such county or borough in respect of such qualifications in like manner as if this Act ha l not passed."—(*Mr. Pike Pease.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) pointed out that this was not a franchise Bill. When they were extending the franchise and altering the qualification it had always been usual and natural to have a saving clause of this kind. If the clause which had been proposed were inserted they would not get the Act in operation for a generation to come. Even if the clause were a desirable one he would ask hon. Members opposite to think what machinery would be required under it. The register would have to contain two classes of voters throughout, one class qualified for a plural vote before to-day and another class that had not qualified. It was quite impossible to put such a provision into this measure, for its insertion would make the Bill worthless.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said he could not agree with the contention put forward by the right hon. Gentleman. He had said that this was not a franchise Bill and he had also disclaimed that it was a disfranchising Bill. His opinion was that precedents ought to be adhered to in this matter. He would remind the Committee that even at the present time there were "faggot" voters on the register who voted notwithstanding the Act of 1884, and they had been allowed to continue on the register until their death. It had already been pointed out that statesmen belonging to the Party opposite in introducing former Bills had made a great boast of the fact that no class of voter was disfranchised, and that was the view put forward by Mr. Gladstone in 1884, for he then stated that the Bill he introduced dispossessed no single man of his existing right. The Bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone abolished the £50 rental franchise, and Mr. Gladstone pointed out then that hardly any man would be injured by the proposal he was making, because he considered it hardly possible that there would be any man entitled to this franchise who would not come within the county franchise he set up in future. So careful was Mr. Gladstone not to interfere with existing rights. If this was a disfranchising Bill they could understand the position taken up by the Government, but the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had told them throughout that it was not a disfranchising Bill. That being so, he thought the Government ought to follow the precedents he had pointed out, and save the rights of the existing voters.

*MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) said this new clause seemed to him so eminently reasonable and fair that he thought it would not be necessary for him to say many words in support of it. It struck him with astonishment that the Government should propose to alter the register at all. Surely they, of all people, ought to be satisfied with the result of the last general election. If they were satisfied it seemed to him that they were turning round and biting the hand that fed them. He went further and said that this was a sort of political patricide, for the Government were attacking the very register which had brought them into being. In this connection the Committee would doubtless all remember the immortal words of Shakspeare—

> "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
> To have a thankless child."

and since the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works was a personal friend of his own, he should be sorry to see him handed down to posterity as a thankless child with a serpent's tooth. It seemed to him that during the course of these debates they had lost sight of the point which was really the most important, namely, to get into this House the very best representatives they could possibly obtain. He was reminded in this connection of a discussion that took place some years ago in a sporting paper as to what was the best bit to put on a horse. Those who took part in the discussion gave so much attention to the question of which bit the horses might be supposed to prefer that they lost sight of the fact that what was really wanted was the best bit with which to guide and control the horse. It seemed to him that in discussing the question of the franchise they had lost sight of the fact that what they wanted to get was the election of the best representatives to this House, and he thought that the Government could hardly quarrel with the choice of representatives which had been made at the last general election, even after the hard things which had been said of the harmless necessary University Members. He would appeal to the Government to allow the new clause to be inserted and preserve to those who had at present plural qualifications the rights which they possessed. It was quite a different thing to handicap a man before a race and to trip him up during a race. He would remind the Committee that an exemption was made by Mr. Gladstone himself in 1884 by which the votes of faggot voters were expressly preserved to those who already had them, while the creation of further faggot voters was prevented.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would give more consideration to the new proposal than he had given to other proposals. Under the Bill the Government proposed immediately to take away from a man what he had hitherto possessed. The plural voter was to be legally robbed of what he had hitherto possessed, and, if in the course of that legal robbery he did not carry out all the restrictions imposed upon him by this Bill, he was to be heavily penalised. Since the days of the Plantagenet kings of England there had been no greater case of legalised robbery than there would be under this Bill.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) said that a proposal which would have the effect of bringing gradually into operation an Act which made such enormous changes was certainly deserving of support. He would just quote one example of the changes it would make. The industrious man who had saved and who had bought a little piece of land in a constituency other than that on which he resided had obtained a second vote. He had a bit of pride in the fact that he had another vote. It was an honest pride which a working man or anyone might possess, and he ought to be encouraged in it and not penalised for it. It had been so in the past. A man had bought a piece of land with the knowledge that he would get a vote in another constituency. In the future this privilege was to be taken away from him. By the proposed new clause, however, a man buying a piece of land in another constituency would know perfectly well that he would not get another vote for it. That was perfectly straightforward, and in the future it would be perfectly right. The attraction of a second vote might have been an inducement to a man to save and buy a piece of land in another constituency, but in the future he would know perfectly well that he would get no second vote. He thought that was a consideration which should weigh with the Committee. He considered that voters should not be either penalised or lose what they had in the way proposed by the Bill, but that they should be allowed to retain what they had saved their money to get. If the proposed new clause were not accepted, working men who had been industrious and had saved and bought some small property in a second constituency would be deprived of that electoral privilege they had earned.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said if the right hon. Gentleman accepted this Amendment he would make a very great difference to the City of London. That remark had been received with cheers by hon. Members on the Benches below the gangway, but he did not know that they quite realised what the position of the City of London would be under the Bill. There were 30,000 electors in the City of London, and he believed he was right in saying that of these only 5,000 would be able to exercise the vote. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] That cheer threw considerable doubt on the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that this was not a disfranchising Bill. If the Bill reduced the electors of the City of London from 30,000 to 5,000, was it not a disfranchising Bill? His intervention in the debate had brought out the fact that this was a disfranchising Bill. He assumed that the electors of the City of London who had plural votes would choose other places in which to record them. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the St. Augustine's division of Kent had shown that the Liberal Party in disqualifying persons who were already in possession of the vote were going against a principle on which the late Mr. Gladstone acted in dealing with alterations in the franchise. It was a little early in the day for the Radical Party to bring in a Reform Bill. Hitherto when the Radical Party had been in office, except in 1892, they had brought in Reform Bills towards the end of the Parliament. He presumed that was because they were aware that they had so dissatisfied the country that they thought they must do something to add new electors. This time they proposed to cut off the register voters who were already on it. He trusted that in order to save themselves from such an imputation the Government would accept the new clause.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was rather surprised that this Amendment had not met with a more sympathetic reception from the Liberal Party. Plural voting had been advocated in the interest of that Party. Up to the time of the last extension of the franchise Liberal organisers had habitually urged members of the Liberal Party to pay forty shillings for a freehold in order that they might have a chance of ousting the Conservative representative. He himself possessed one of these qualifications, which was acquired under the active stimulus and advice of the Liberal agent. The hon. Member for the Handsworth division had said that the Liberal Party had been guilty of something like patricide in bringing forward this Bill, but considering the way in which Mr. Cobden had dealt with the matter he hoped that they would show more mercy to the pluralists of the Liberal Party and not be guilty of political infanticide.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 360. (Division List No. 309.)

AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John, S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Wor.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.

Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliffe, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B. (Hexh'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (D'v'np'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt. Hn Sir J, T. (Chesh.)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James-Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. .S
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire
Haslam, Lewis (Honmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Waston
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)

Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn (Norfolk,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Soctt(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon
Stuart, James (Sunderland
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F, W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leiecster)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(H'ddersf d
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) had the following Amendment on the Paper. "So much of the twenty-seventh and thirty-second sections of The Representation of the People Act, 1832, and of section forty-six of The Representation of the People Act, 1867, as relates to the residence of electors within seven miles of any city or borough, or twenty-five miles in the case of the City of London, be repealed."

THE CHAIRMAN said that the provisions of the Acts mentioned in the proposed Amendment were outside the scope of this Bill, and therefore the proposed new clause was out of order.

MR. NIELD said that he proposed to put in words limiting the proposed repeal to persons who had to select a constituency under Clause 1.

THE CHAIRMAN said that if the hon. Member had anything fresh to put before the Committee he should bring up a new clause.

*MR. H. H. MARKS moved the following new clause—

"No proceedings shall be taken under this Act except on the fiat of the Attorney-General."

The hon. Member said that the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had repeated that evening a striking and original definition which he had given of that measure as a machinery Bill. Happily, in these days, they were in the habit of providing guards to their machinery, in order that those employed on and around it should not be in danger from it. If there was machinery which was calculated to do great injury, it was the machinery of this Bill, and his proposal was to surround it with such effective guards as would reduce that danger to the smallest possible dimensions. The Bill, as it stood, if passed into law, would revolutionise our electoral law, not only in times of elections but in times preceding them. It would also revolutionise and disorganise the registration work of every Party in the State, and it was not difficult to conceive—indeed it was reasonable to anticipate—that this measure would be used by violent political partisans, not only to the detriment of their opponents, but to the detriment of political liberty. Nothing would be simpler than under this Bill to trump up a charge of personation against anybody. A political candidate, suffering under the smart of defeat, would find in this measure the means of wreaking vengeance upon those at whose hands he had suffered defeat. The right hon. Gentleman had undertaken in respect of some minor matters to insert safeguards against this abuse of the Bill, and he thought it was not unreasonable to ask that he should accept the safeguards which he offered by this clause. This Bill, as it stood, would put a most mischievous power in the hands of individuals to wreak political vengeance, and was calculated to entail consequences of a far-reaching character which even its authors would regret. There was no reason why the Attorney-General should not pass an opinion upon the case before the Act was put into force. He had some hope that the right hon. Gentleman would be disposed to regard this new clause with favour, and he himself heartily commended it to the Committee.

New clause—

"No proceedings shall be taken under this Act except on the fiat of the Attorney-General."—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HARCOURT said he was quite prepared to accept a clause couched in somewhat similar words to this, in order to give an assurance or even greater assurance to people that there would be no room for malevolence in regard to the proceedings under the Act. He thought, however, that the words used should be a little fuller than those in the clause now proposed, and that it should provide that in the absence of the Attorney-General the Solicitor-General should come in. He believed there was some well known form in regard to a matter of this kind which he was prepared to accept.

SIR E. CARSON said he thought the form which the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind included the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General in Ireland, and the Solicitor General in Scotland.

MR. HARCOURT said that that was what he meant.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman had fully considered the effect of this new clause. It provided that no proceedings should be taken under the Act except on the fiat of the Attorney-General. That might leave a person aggrieved without a remedy.

MR. HARCOURT said he was sure that the hon. Member opposite understood what he meant when he accepted the Amendment. What he meant was that there should be no proceeding or prosecution instituted from malevolent motives by a private person. He could accept the principle of the clause, but he would bring up an Amendment upon Report.

Proposed new clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton) moved the following new clause: "A Parliamentary voter may withdraw any selection made by him on giving notice to the clerk of the county council or town clerk having charge of the registers in which such selection was operative on or before the thirty-first day of August in any year." He hoped the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would accept this Amendment, because he thought that a voter ought to have as many opportunities as were reasonable for giving his selection. The clause which he was moving gave a Parliamentary voter the right to withdraw any selection made by him by notice to the clerk of the county council or to the town clerk before the 31st of August, and it seemed to him reasonable that if a man had sent in a selection by the 1st of January, and if circumstances occurred under which it seemed to him right for him to change his place of selection he should not be tied and bound by the selection which he had made.

New clause—

"A parliamentary voter may withdraw any selection made by him on giving notice to the clerk of the county council or town clerk having charge of the registers in which such selection was operative on or before the thirty-first day of August in any year."—(*Mr. Harmood-Banner.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. MacVeagh.*

MR. HARCOURT said the clause would not do in the form in which it was moved, but he had already promised that there should be a power inserted in the Bill for a voter to withdraw his selection.

SIR E. CARSON said that if the right hon. Gentleman was going to consider this matter, he would point out that the reason why the date of the 31st August was selected was that the notice of selection as matters at present stood must be given before the 1st September.

MR. HARCOURT said the date was the 5th September.

SIR E. CARSON said they had better make every allowance possible.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said he understood that according to the Government plan the notice of selection must be sent in prior to the 5th September, but there was no provision fixing the date at which it should be sent in. If a man sent in a notice on the 5th September it would operate, as he understood it, during the following year. The effect of the Bill ought to be that a voter was not restricted to the last week or fortnight, and it was clear that it would only be reasonable that at any time before the 5th September he should be able to withdraw and send in another notice. If that was what the right hon. Gentleman meant to bring about he thought they would all agree that this clause might be withdrawn.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said in substance that was what his right hon. friend had stated, but he did not wish at the present moment to tie himself to a date.

*MR. CAVE said he wanted to know exactly what the concession meant. Supposing an elector changed his residence in the course of the year for which a selection had been made, his hon. friend desired that he should be at liberty to withdraw his existing selection and put in a new one for that year. He did not quite see how the right hon. Gentleman met the Amendment, if he was merely going to put in power to withdraw. That would not mean power to withdraw for the current year. It would merely mean that a voter would have power before the month of September in any year to make a satisfied selection for the next ensuing year.

MR. HARCOURT: That is what we mean.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY asked what objection there was to accepting this clause now. The right hon. Gentleman could go into Committee on the clause now, but if on the other hand the clause was withdrawn it was quite possible that when they reached the Report stage they would have forgotten what had taken place. He had attended the debate every day, and the right hon. Gentleman had given innumerable pledges which he (Sir Frederick Banbury) had forgotten. They would therefore on the Report stage have to look these pledges up. He did not see any objection whatever to the right hon. Gentleman accepting this clause, and, if he desired to do so, amending it on the Report stage.

MR. HARCOURT said it was quite impossible to accept the clause in its present form, and the hon. Baronet might be sure that he had taken a note of all the promises he had made and that his memory would serve him in regard to them. He would take care that all his promises were carried out.

Question put.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER said that after the explanation which had been given he would like to withdraw.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was too late to withdraw.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 69; Noes, 343. (Division List No. 360.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughsHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lane-Fox, G. R.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashley and Mr. Marks.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn.W.C.B.(Hexhm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John

Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Rt.HnSirJ.T. (Chesh.
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell, (Bristol S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, SirD.Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby
Jones, Wm.(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk,B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeagh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robt. John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monmouth
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'tn
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon

Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W.(Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.,N)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER, in moving as a new clause that "It shall be the duty of the clerk of the county council or the town clerk to supply free of charge all forms required for the carrying out of this Act," said he did not know whether he had the consent of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HARCOURT said he had already promised it.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER: Then I do not move.

*MR. STAVELEY HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford), in moving a clause imposing upon clerks of county councils and town clerks penalties for wilful neglect to carry out the provisions of the Act, hoped it would receive the acceptance of the Government. It could not be called destructive in any shape or form, and it was not moved with any feeling of hostility to the town clerks or clerks of county councils. It was intended to apply only in those cases where the officials being town clerks or clerks of county councils had acted wilfully. It was unusual and almost unprecedented to introduce legislation which, while it imposed heavy penalties on persons who were guilty of a breach of the measure, placed no penalties on the officials with whom the responsibility of marking the register rested and by whose wilful neglect heavy punishments would fall on voters. It was true that the officials in question, being clerks to county councils and town clerks, were already hard-worked, and he would like to have seen the responsibilty put upon others, but as the Government intended them to perform these duties there should be some penalties such as this clause proposed.

New clause—

"Any clerk of the county council or town clerk who shall wilfully neglect to carry out the provisions of this Act or any part thereof or who shall be wilfully guilty of any breach in the execution of this Act shall for every such offence be liable to pay, by way of fine, a sum of money not exceeding five pounds, nor less than twenty shillings, to be imposed by and at the discretion of any barrister holding any court for the revision of any list of the parish or township of any such clerk of the county council or town clerk."—(*Mr. Staveley Hill.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HARCOURT said he had already stated that there should be a penalty, and obviously there must be one. But the method proposed by the hon. Gentleman was not the way to do it. Probably the proper way was to impose the same penalties as those imposed on the voter under the Act of 1843, and he would see that that was done.

Question put, and negatived.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) moved the following clause standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire: "The Clerk of the Crown shall, on demand, supply a certificate, signed by him, certifying the name and address and qualification of any elector who has voted at a Parliamentary election in any constituency in any county or borough and the date upon which such election was held. The fee for such certificate shall not exceed one shilling."

New clause—

"The Clerk of the Crown shall, on demand, supply a certificate, signed by him, certifying the name and address and qualification of any elector who has voted at a Parliamentary election in any constituency in any county or borough and the date upon which such election was held. The fee for such certificate shall not exceed one shilling."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

MR. HARCOURT did not think it would be right to give anyone the power to demand—merely out of curiosity it might be—to know if a certain elector had voted. Those who were responsible for the matter knew who voted, and he could not accept an Amendment to permit the public to demand this information.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD fancied this clause had been proposed under a misapprehension. It would be impossible for the Clerk of the Crown to find out the information and to give any such certificate, and he would therefore suggest that although it might be very desirable that such information should be obtainable this was not the way in which it could be brought about.

LORD BALCARRES said he would withdraw the clause by the permission of the Committee.

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved the following new clause:—

"Notwithstanding anything in Section 64 of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, contained, no person registered as a Parliamentary elector in any constituency, but debarred by Section 1 of this Act from voting in that constituency in any election, shall be held to be an elector in that election and constituency within the meaning of that Act."

He said he wished to insert this clause in order to remove certain disabilities that would be inflicted upon the plural voter if this Bill were carried. Section 7 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, imposed certain restrictions on candidates, and prevented them from making certain payments to electors for the hire of rooms, carriages, and similar purposes, the reason, of course, being that there should not be bribery. By Section 64 an elector was defined as a person who was on the register. If this Bill passed the plural voter would be put under a disability as compared with the elector with only vote, because in the constituencies in which he was not allowed to vote he would be debarred under the Act of 1883 from using his house or windows for the exhibition of bills to further the candidature of one side or the other. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman did not wish to deprive the plural voter not only of his second, third, or fourth vote, but also of the opportunity of earning an honest penny in a constituency in which he was not allowed to vote.

New clause—

"Notwithstanding anything in Section 64 of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, contained, no person registered as a Parliamentary elector in any constituency, but debarred by Section 1 of this Act from voting in that constituency in any election, shall be held to be an elector in that election and constituency within the meaning of that Act."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

MR. HARCOURT said he quite understood the hon. Gentleman's view. He wished to be able to treat a plural voter who was not an effective plural voter in a constituency, or to hire him for the purpose of exposing Bills. That was perfectly reasonable, only the clause was a little too wide. If the hon. Gentleman would alter the last part of his clause so as to read "within the meaning of Sections 1 and 7 of that Act," he would accept it.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said the right hon. Gentleman had omitted to consider the important part of the Amendment which was to prevent the operation of this Bill diminishing the number of electors in respect of whom the election expenses were measured.

MR. HARCOURT said that if the right hon. Gentleman's view was pressed that the clause would create a hardship in this respect he feared that it would be impossible for him to accept the Amendment at all.

LORD R. CECIL said that he was unable to understand the reference of the right hon. Gentleman to "Section 1" of the Corrupt Practices Act. His hon. friend who moved the new clause desired to give refreshments to electors who were not going to vote, but in Section 1 it was provided that an elector might be treated to refreshment provided that it was not done with a corrupt object and for the purpose of influencing his vote. There was not the slightest objection to giving refreshments to an elector unless it was done with the intention of influencing votes, and that ought to be forbidden whether the man was an elector or not. There had been cases in which the charge had been that refreshments had been given to a person not for his own vote, but to induce him to influence another person's vote. This was forbidden quite irrespective of the motive, the object being to reduce the expenses of the election. That was the point which had been raised by the right hon. Member for St. George's, Hanover Square. There were two quite distinct objects in view in the Corrupt Practices Act, one of them being to make elections purer and the other to make them cheaper. The object of limiting the expenses, of course, was to make elections cheaper. This object was met by providing that they should only spend an amount proportionate to the number of electors. He sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the answer he had given.

MR. HARCOURT said the noble Lord's argument had convinced him that he had somewhat misunderstood the point as to refreshment. He should have no objection to inserting in the last line the words "Section 7 of."

*MR. STUART WORTLEY said that unfortunately the right hon. Gentleman had not taken the opportunity which this Amendment offered of doing something to carry out the idea of making elections cheaper than they had been hitherto. It was all very well for the right hon. Gentleman, who had not had much experience of contested elections, to say that there was a maximum limit and that nobody was bound to spend up to it. In his opinion the maximum limit was the candidate's greatest protection against unreasonable demands being made upon him, and it was an unreasonable thing that persons not effectively on the register, and not capable of being canvassed, should be counted in assessing the candidate's expenses. He happened to be a Member of the House when Sir Henry James introduced his Bill in 1883, and he knew quite well what was intended by that distinguished statesman. His intention was that the maximum should be a protection to the candidate against unnecessary expenditure. Anything which tended to lower the maximum limit tended to limit the expenses of elections, and he was sorry the Government had not gone along that path in this matter.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said that those who had been engaged in elections recently knew they had had to make repeated attempts to have the costs of elections taxed because they found a disposition on the part of returning officers to charge upon the highest possible scale. This was a question in which

Labour representatives were particularly interested, for they had found out by experience that the cost of elections was almost more than many of their candidates could afford. If they were going to create a new situation by having 5,000 or 6,000 pluralists in one constituency denied the opportunity of voting—and he did not disagree with the principle of the Bill—if they were going to disfranchise them, certainly they ought not to count those who were disfranchised in order to total up the already too high charges imposed upon Parliamentary candidates. He thought the Government would be acting wisely if they accepted the principle of making it impossible for any returning officer to charge for any elector who under this Act had been made a non-elector in the particular constituency.

MR. HARCOURT said he was very much in favour of decreasing the cost of elections in every possible way. The difficulty was that the plural voter whom they wanted to get at would not be marked in every constituency. This brought them back to the point whether they should mark the voter where he had selected to vote or at all the places where he was not to vote and the Committee had already decided against the latter alternative.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the argument which the right hon. Gentleman advanced in one of his earlier speeches was that after all there was no great hardship involved in this proposal, because no man was obliged to spend up to the limit of the maximum laid down by the Act. Nobody who remembered the Act of 1883 could have any doubt as to what had always been the fundamental object of Parliament in regard to this matter. It was a question of the amount they were to be permitted to spend, but Parliament had something more than that in view. Parliament at that time took, and rightly took, the line that the enormous cost of elections was becoming a perfect scandal, and was having the effect of preventing many persons from standing as candidates who would probably have become valuable Members of the House. That was one of the great motives of both sides of the House in dealing with the Bill of 1883. It was felt at that time that there should not be this unlimited expenditure. During one of the earlier debates upon this Bill he gave his own constituency as an illustration. No doubt it was an extreme case, but there were many other cases of the same character. There were more than 30,000 electors in the City of London and the vast majority of them were pluralist voters. They voted in the City of London because it was their place of business or because they happened to possess some other qualification. When this Bill passed he did not doubt that an enormous number of the electors in his constituency would select to vote for their places of residence, and not for their places of business in the City. Therefore the diminution in the total number of voters in the City of London would be immense. No man could say what it would be, but he would not be at all surprised if only 10,000 electors remained. His hon. friend and himself who represented the City at the present time, if they were the candidates at the next election—and he hoped they would be—would find that their scale of expenses would be calculated not on the 10,000 electors who would be able to vote, but on the 30,000 voters who were on the register. That was the absolute construction of this clause. The proposal might be difficult to carry out, but it must be one of two things—either this Bill was started on absolutely impossible lines to begin with, or else there had not been an adequate amount of thought and consideration in order to discover some way of avoiding this difficulty. He would suggest that the best plan would be to read the clause a second time and then see whether they could not amend it in such a way as would meet the objections, not to the principle, but to the way in which the principle was proposd to carried out.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new clause—

"After the word 'of' in the last line to insert the words, 'Section 7 of.'"—(*The Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that if this Amendment were carried nothing would be done to remedy the grievance which was admitted on both sides of the House. What was more, nothing would be done to make this Bill conform to the policy adopted in 1883. He thought the least the Government could do was to show why it was impossible for them to deal with a situation which everybody admitted ought to be dealt with.

MR. ASQUITH said that everybody would like to reduce the expenses at elections. He should very much like to reduce the maximum scale under the Act of 1883, and certainly those sitting on the Ministerial side of the House would have no objection whatever to any proposal to carry out that policy. He was not charging the right hon. Gentleman with inconsistency, but he was glad to find that he was in that frame of mind. As his right hon. friend in charge of the Bill had pointed out, the only reason why the Government limited the Amendment was that they could not do otherwise consistently with the decision at which the Committee had already arrived. They had decided that the plural voter was to select the constituency in which he would vote, and it was only upon the register in that division that his name would be starred. Therefore, in regard to registers in places where he did not intend to vote, how could a Parliamentary candidate or his agent determine how many on the register would vote in that division? The only way would be for the Committee to reverse the decision at which it had arrived. That would involve imposing upon every plural voter not only the obligation to send in a selection notice, but also notices to all the other constituencies in which he did not intend to vote. That was the only possible way to carry out the Amendment as the Bill now stood in the form in which it had been passed by the Committee. This new clause would be, in fact, a reversal of the decision they had already arrived at.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN submitted that as the Committee had decided a good many things which the Government admitted would have to be altered on the Report stage, it was quite reasonable to ask that one more alteration should be made. He agreed that it would be a great hardship to require a voter, in addition to sending notice of the selected constituency, to send notice to every other constituency where he was qualified that he did not intend to vote there. But the Committee had not decided, and he hoped they would not decide, that plural voters should be required to do that. Somebody else would be bound to do that work which, he contended, it would not be right to impose on the plural voter. It was perfectly right that he should not be harassed in that way. The Government proposed to leave that work to electioneering agents. That was going to add enormously to the burden of every sitting Member who paid his expenses in a contest in his own constituency. That ought not to be so, and at a later stage he would propose that the Government ought to discharge the duty, it being one which ought properly to be done by them. The answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the thing could not be done would not stand examination.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said that if the Committee adopted the clause, and not the Amendment, it would be beneficial in many different ways. By getting rid of all plural voters who were not entitled to vote a great many desirable reforms would be accomplished. The first would be that the returning officer's expenses, which he was entitled to charge against the candidates, would be cut down in accordance with the number voting in the constituency. He could not imagine a more desirable reform than that. If in the City of London the number was cut down from 30,000 to 10,000 what sense would there be in allowing the returning officer to charge on 30,000? He ought to charge only on the actual number able to vote in the constituency. He had in his mind's eye a constituency in Liverpool which would be reduced under the action of this Bill from 9,000 to 5,000. The effect of that should be to relieve the candidates from paying the extra money. It seemed to him to be essential, if the Bill was to accomplish any of the objects claimed for it, that the Government should take some means to provide a net register of the actual number entitled to vote. He respectfully submitted to the Committee that they ought not to limit this clause to Clause 7 of the

Corrupt Practices Act. The only possible reason why the Government opposed the Amendment was that, having made the machinery of the Bill in an unworkable and unsatisfactory form, now they simply said, "We cannot carry out this reform because our machinery will not enable us to do so." That was not an answer. What the Government had to do was to remodel their machinery.

Sir E. CARSON pointed out that in future the register would not be a register of persons entitled to vote, but of some entitled and some not entitled to vote. There would, therefore, be no register within the meaning of Section 64 of the Corrupt Practices Act of 1883. That being so, how was a candidate to regulate his expenses as required by the Act? A more ridiculous clause to put into an Act of Parliament it would be hard to conceive. He had no doubt that when they came to the Report stage, when they were not bound by what had been decided in Committee, the matter might be rectified; but it was no answer to the arguments urged on that side of the House to say that the Committee had passed this matter entirely in ignorance of what would be the effect of it. The very object of the Report stage was to afford an opportunity for overruling things which had been done in Committee. As he understood the procedure of this House there was nothing to prevent the Government or anybody else moving on Report an Amendment on a question which had been otherwise dealt with in Committee. It was a mere technicality to say that a vote of the House had already been given, and no answer had been made from the Government benches on the merits of this question.

Mr. ASQUITH said it was not a mere technical point to urge that the Committee had already come to a decision. The matter went to the very root and structure of the Amendment. It should be remembered that the principle of the Bill was that the elector should select the constituency in which he would vote. The right hon. and learned Gentleman had started a fresh hare by discovering a new definition of the word "elector" in the Corrupt Practices Act of 1883. This was to the effect that the expression "elector" was "any person who might be for the time being on the roll of voters, and who might vote at the time of an election." The right hon. and learned Gentleman's argument was that when they came to this measure a plural voter who had made his selection, and had thereby debarred himself from voting in any other constituency, would not be an elector within that definition. What did "elector" mean? Anyone whose name was on the register for the time being, whether entitled to vote or not. According to all the rules of legal construction that person was an elector within the meaning of the Act. He could not help expressing his surprise that an ex-Law Officer of the Crown, and one of those University representatives of whose value so much had been said, should have been misleading poor unenlightened members of the Committee in the way the right hon. Gentleman had endeavoured to do on the construction of a plain English word. He could assure the Committee that there was no substance of any sort in the contention put forward by the right hon. and learned Gentleman.

Sir E. CARSON said that notwithstanding the strong statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer he still adhered to the construction which he had put on the Act. When this Bill passed the register would no longer contain the names of those entitled to vote, but thousands of names of those who, by the Bill, had been disfranchised. Surely the matter was too plain for argument. As to the sneer the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made use of to him as a mere University Member, he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he did not mind it in the least; it did not affect him at all. Whether University Member or Chancellor of the Exchequer he would place no meaning upon an Act of Parliament other than that which he held conscientiously, and he thought it was rather unworthy of the right hon. Gentleman to suggest that he was purposely trying to mislead the Committee. [Ministerial cries of "He did not."]

Mr. ASQUITH denied that he had made any such suggestion.

Sir E. CARSON maintained, without fear of contradiction by anyone who liked to read the measure, whether he was a lawyer or not, that there would be no longer a register which came within the definition of the Act of 1883.

*MR. CAVE said he entirely appreciated the point raised by the right hon. and learned Gentleman which he thought ought to be settled either now or on the Report stage. When the Act of 1883 was passed, it fixed a maximum amount of expenses to be incurred in an election, and a maximum number of clerks, messengers, and committee rooms, the maximum being determined in each case by the number of electors entitled to vote; but when this Bill was passed the number of electors entitled to vote in any particular constituency would be diminished, and they ought to provide for diminishing the amount of expenses. For himself he would rather have the clause in the form in which his hon. friend had moved it, but if it was to be amended by confining its operation to particular sections of the Act of 1883, he would propose that Sections 1 and 14 should be added to Section 7. He begged to move accordingly.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'Section 7' and insert the words 'Sections 1, 7 and 14.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'Section 7' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. ASQUITH said that perhaps the hon. Member would leave this matter over; if so, he was willing carefully to consider what additional sections of the Corrupt Practices Act might be properly included in the Bill.

SIR E. CARSON said it was understood of course that they did not want any amendment.

MR. ASQUITH said he understood that.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question put, "That the words 'Section 7 of' be there inserted in the proposed new clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 295; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 361.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn.W.C.B(Hexham
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.)
Bertram, Julius
Bethall, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, A. W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt.Hn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyChas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirW. J. (S.Pancras,W
Corbett, CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W.H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.

Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rchester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Nortan, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, D.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'm't'n)
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. N.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd.
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H (Somerset, E.)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir A. F.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Ed. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.A(Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. Goerge H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Fredk. Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F. E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H.(Lancashire)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Cave and Mr. Ashley.

Question proposed, "That the clause, as amended, be added to the Bill."

*MR. H. H. MARKS said he desired to add at the end of the clause a definition of an elector, because in his judgment the limiting words referring to Clause 7 took away all the value of the clause and reduced it to a nullity.

MR. ASQUITH, as a point of order, said that Section 7, and only Section 7, of the Act would apply in these cases. Therefore it was only in regard to Section 7 that this clause was material.

THE CHAIRMAN thought the Amendment which the hon. Member suggested was out of order.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) thought the Committee were entitled to some further explanation in reference to this clause. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that Clause 7 was the only clause which would apply, but he did not tell them that Clause 64 had no bearing upon Clause 7. Of course he should bow to what the right hon. Gentleman said as a lawyer, but to say that, Clause 7 having been incorporated, other clauses having a bearing on Clause 7 were not to affect the Bill was begging the point Therefore he asked the right hon. Gentleman to show how and why the matters dealt with in Clause 64 were absolutely rendered out of ken by the incorporation of Clause 7. If as a lawyer the right hon. Gentleman was satisfied, well and good. It was a matter which a lawyer would know but a layman would not, though he thought it was a question upon which a layman was entitled to have an answer.

MR. ASQUITH said if the hon. Gentleman had heard the answer given to the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Kingston he would have known exactly that only Section 7 of the Corrupt Practices Act was to apply to this Act. The other sections would certainly not apply. The hon. Member would see that the clause began with the words—

> "Notwithstanding anything in Section 64 of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, contained, no person registered as a parliamentary elector in any constituency, but debarred by Section 1 of this Act from voting in that constituency in any election, shall be held to be an elector in that election and constituency :"

Then came the limiting words—

> "Within the meaning of Section 7 of that Act."

*MR. H. H. MARKS said that it was on account of the insertion of the limiting words that he opposed the clause in its present form. He did so because the inclusion of these words took away the whole value of the clause. It was emasculated and every vestige of good that it possessed was taken from it. For these reasons he should vote against its adoption.

Sir E. CARSON said he would like to suggest that if this clause was to be added to the Bill the right hon. Gentleman should consider the advisability of redrafting it. At present it read in a most peculiar way.

Mr. ASQUITH agreed that that was necessary.

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, be added to the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 294; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 362.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn W. C. B (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn. Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras)
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George

Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Bren, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, C.E. (Edinb'rgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shapman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George, J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P.W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd.
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Marks and Sir William Bull.

SIR E. CARSON moved a new clause providing that where the name of a person was put upon the register for the first time, the clerk of the county council or town clerk should at once serve a notice of the fact on such person, warning him that if he was registered in any other district he must make a selection under the terms of this Bill. The object of the Amendment was to prevent, if possible, a number of people being disfranchised who had a qualification but who would not know what they had to do in regard to this Bill, and might not know whether their names appeared on the register.

New clause—

"Where the name of any person is inserted on the register of Parliamentary voters for the first time the clerk of the county council or town clerk shall serve a notice of the fact on such person, and shall thereby give him notice that if he is registered in any other constituency it is necessary to serve a notice in accordance with and in the form and manner prescribed by the first section of this Act."—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. HARCOURT said he spoke on a question almost exactly similar to this the previous night. It was impossible for the clerk to know whether it was the first time the name appeared on the register. He could not possibly accept the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN moved the following new clause:—

"(1) The officer responsible for the printing of the Parliamentary register in each constituency, shall, as soon as such register is printed, send a copy of the register to the Local Government Board, and it shall be the duty of the Local Government Board to forthwith compare all such registers, and to mark the names of all plural voters with a distinguishing mark; (2) The register so marked shall be sent on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year, to the returning officer of the constituency for which it was compiled, and every elector whose name appears on that register without such distinguishing mark shall be entitled to vote at elections in that constituency notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the provisions of this Act unless his name shall have been struck off by the revising barrister at the revision court."

This Amendment, he said, was of very great importance. The Government, on the first clause of the Bill, had repeatedly stated when they insisted upon the selection being made that it was part of the principle of the Bill that the register should clearly show whether the person was entitled to vote, and that candidates should know who was an effective voter and who was not. The Bill, as it stood, would not give anyone that information. It left them all in complete doubt as to who were and who were not effective voters. In the second place his Amendment would enable them to limit the expenditure in proportion to the number of effective voters and not have it swollen by sham electors—sham in the sense that although their names appeared on the register and they had a qualification they would not under this Bill have the right to vote. The only department that could do this duty of checking the registers was the Local Government Board, and that responsibility should fall upon the Government Department and not upon individual candidates.

New clause—

"(1) The officer responsible for the printing of the Parliamentary register in each constituency shall as soon as such register is printed send a copy of the register to the Local Government Board and it shall be the duty of the Local Government Board to forthwith compare all such registers and to mark the names of all plural voters with a distinguishing mark; (2) The register so marked shall be sent on or before the thirty-first day of December in each year to the returning officer of the constituency for which it was compiled, and every elector whose name appears on that register without such distinguishing mark shall be entitled to vote at elections in that constituency notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the provisions of this Act unless his name shall have been struck off by the revising barrister at the revision court."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this clause be read a second time."

Mr. HARCOURT said the right hon. Gentleman proposed to set up a clearing-house for voters. If that could be efficiently carried out it would be a good thing. He had always said that an ideal method would be to mark on the register against the plural voter's name "not to vote"; but he thought a simpler solution altogether would be to abolish property qualification and make it purely residential. The proposal for a clearing-house was one he could not promptly accept, because it could not be worked. He imagined the right hon. Gentleman had moved the new clause merely with a view to proving this Bill was ridiculous.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That was a subsidiary object.

Mr. HARCOURT said he was certainly not inclined to throw the whole electoral system of the country and the organisation of the Local Government Board into the melting-pot in order merely to forward a subsidiary object of the right hon. Gentleman.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the right hon. Gentleman had shown such a clear perception of the points at issue that he would ask leave to withdraw the clause at the present time, reserving his right to bring up the subject again.

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN said the clause standing in the name of the hon. Member for Barnard Castle was out of order.

The clause in question was as follows:—

"Nothing in this Act shall deprive any elector of his right to vote who is registered for more than one constituency but who has a qualification in only one constituency, and who in no way is seeking to evade the provisions of this Act, provided that such elector declares that he has not voted in any other constituency during that election."

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON said the point involved in the clause had been discussed, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was so impressed with the importance of doing something that he had promised the matter should be gone into. He had simply taken the precaution of putting the clause on the Paper so that it should have the consideration of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought the point in the Amendment had been discussed a great deal and had been previously decided.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON said he understood the objection was that it was outside the scope of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN said one part of the clause certainly proposed something which was hostile to the principle of Clause 1.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON said he did not seek to put in anything that was hostile to Clause 1, and he thought he would be able to show that he did not in in any way interfere with the principle of selection.

The CHAIRMAN said that so far as he could see it certainly appeared that a man who had two qualifications and had not selected was to be able to vote, and that was contrary to the principle of the clause.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON said he did not say the man who had two qualifications but who had only one and had been accidentally registered for another as well.

The CHAIRMAN said the clause dealt with the man who had been registered in two places.

*Mr. NIELD moved a new clause providing that Section 28, sub-section 14 of the Parliamentary and Municipal Registration Act 1878, and the 5th section of the Registration Act 1885, should not apply in respect of any person who should be required to make a selection under Clause 1 of this Act. There ought not to be duplicate marks on the register, which should be quite distinct and not confounded with the marks under the other Acts, which must inevitably cause confusion in regard to the registers, which were quite sufficiently difficult to understand at the present time.

Mr. HARCOURT said he did not see any reason for changing the system which with a single register in a single area had worked very well.

New clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 3, after the word 'you,' to insert the words 'to your knowledge.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 6, after '1861,' to insert the words 'and The Universities Election Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881.'"—(*Mr. Harcourt.*)

Mr. CLAUDE HAY thought they were entitled to some explanation of this Amendment from the Lord Advocate.

Mr. HARCOURT said that the words were necessary in order to bring the Act into force in Scotland.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY hoped the Committee would insist upon a fuller explanation being given of this proposal on Report.

Mr. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) thought it was treating the House of Commons with little less than contempt to propose an Amendment of this kind when there was no member of the Government present who was capable of explaining it.

Sir WILLIAM ROBSON said that to anyone who had paid close attention to the wording of the Bill no explanation of this proposal would be necessary. They were simply proposing that in line 6 they should add those words, indicating that they were making the addition under two Acts instead of under one.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CAVE said the Amendment he had to propose was simply a consequential one. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule, page 4, line 8, after the word 'not' to insert the words 'to my knowledge."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Mr. HARCOURT said he had no objection to the words, but he would like time to see whether the place proposed was the best to insert them.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 346.]

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at half after Nine o'clock.

# HOUSE OF LORDS.

*Thursday*, 1*st November*, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against—Of inhabitants of parish and district of Helmsley; Shipton Mayne; parish of North Waltham. Of parents attending church schools in the parish of Moldgreen.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### POST OFFICE.

Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Republic of Nicaragua, dated 4th July 1906.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

I. Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways:—In the urban district of Tottenham, in the county of Middlesex; in the rural district of Bath, in the county of Somerset, from Weston to Lansdown; in the rural district of Keynsham, in the county of Somerset (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of Bath Electric Tramways, Limited); in the West Riding of the county of York, from Clayton West to Darton; in the parishes of Kettle and of Falkland, in the county of Fife, from Falkland Road Station to Falkland; in the county of Cardigan, from Lampeter to Aberayron, and to New Quay: in the county of Carnarvon (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of the Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway Company), and the transfer to that company of the powers conferred upon the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1900, and other matters.

II. Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending Bere Alston and Calstock Light Railways Orders, 1900 and 1903, and for other purposes.

### AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION (IRELAND).

Report on the trade in imports and exports at the Irish Ports during the year ended 31st December, 1904.

### EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Return of Evictions in Ireland for the Quarter ended 30th September, 1906.

### COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 507. Southern Nigeria (Lagos). Report for 1905.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### PUBLIC RECORDS (PRISONS).

Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the prison of the Marshalsea of the Court of King's or Queen's Bench, the "Queen's Prison," the Fleet Prison, and the Prison of the Marshalsea of His Majesty's Household and Palace Court, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

### SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Read $3^{a}$ (according to Order), and passed.

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)

House again in Committee (according to Order.)

[The EARL of ONSLOW in the Chair]

Clause 3:—

*LORD REAY rose to resume the discussion of Lord Balfour's Amendment to provide that in the case of any public elementary school in which extended

*An Asterisk* (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

facilities were not afforded under the Act the parents of not less than twenty children might demand facilities for religious education. He said that on an educational question relating to Scotland he would find himself generally in accord with his noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh. The noble Lord last night said very distinctly that the Cowper-Temple Clause was sufficient for him, and on that point, fortunately, they were in complete agreement. But then the noble Lord stated that the restraints of the Cowper-Temple Clause were derogatory to public control. On that point he did not agree with him. He thought they simply regulated the exercise of the public control, but did not destroy it.

The noble Lord further said that the compromise of 1870 had worked well for a number of years, but had broken down. They must ascertain when it broke down. It certainly had not broken down when the Bill of 1902 was under discussion. The Cowper-Temple Clause in the provided schools was left untouched as it stood before. It would be in the memory of many of their Lordships that Lord Lytton proposed an Amendment very similar to the one submitted by Lord Balfour and which was now before the Committee, and it was important to bear in mind what the attitude of the Government of 1902 was towards that Amendment. The noble Marquess who was then at the head of the Board of Education opposed the Amendment and used these words—

> "What I said was that it would not give satisfaction to all those denominations which it is intended to benefit. I said the Nonconformists would not like it, the clergy would not like it, and the managers would not like it."

He asked whether since 1902 anything had occurred which would make that statement at the present time less relevant or true. The noble Duke the Leader of the House at the time also opposed the Amendment in these terms—

> "This proposal does, therefore, amount to giving to the local authority in every county, and in every borough, the power, if it thinks fit, of abrogating to that extent the Cowper-Temple Clause, and our contention is that such a power cannot be given to a local authority without the certainty of raising prolonged, acrimonious, and probably interminable disputes upon the religious question, and it is on these grounds that we must object to this proposal."

He asked whether noble Lords opposite could suppose that at this juncture, after all that had happened since 1902, they could accept a proposal which the Government of that day repudiated.

Was there any reason to suppose that since 1902 the country had been dissatisfied with the provision made for religious instruction in provided schools? He confessed that he saw no evidence of it. He did not think there were any symptoms that the country wanted a change made in that direction, and whatever opposition there was to this Bill, it was not on that ground. It was caused by other enactments in the Bill, and not by those which left the provided schools untouched as they were left in the Act of 1902. Had the parents who sent their children to the provided schools shown in any way that they wanted the facilities which the noble Lord proposed to give them? He had not seen any trace of it. His noble friend said he was desirous that, if this instruction which he proposed should be given was to be given, it should not be given by outsiders as a rule, but by the teachers. He was not surprised that the noble Lord, with his knowledge of the requirements of discipline in the schools, had made that reservation. But if the teachers of the school were to give this denominational instruction, then he did not see how that could be done without imposing the tests which it was the object of this Bill to abolish. The noble Lord also laid stress on the obligation that the teachers should only teach what they believed. He did not disagree with him, but he thought that the safeguards in the Bill exempting teachers who did not wish to give religious instruction were quite sufficient.

He thought that, for instance, in London there would be a considerable difficulty in making the necessary arrangements. The noble Lord had alluded to London, and he (Lord Reay) might perhaps be allowed, with his experience of London schools, to state that the religious instruction as it was given under the London School Board formerly, and is given now in the County Council schools, had never given rise to any difficulty. The parents in no way objected to that instruction or wished to receive at the hands of the public authority more than the definite instruction which can be given under the Cowper-Temple Clause. Neither had there ever been any difficulty in finding teachers to give that instruction. But if they were going to accept this proviso and impose these new duties on the teachers, he was more than doubtful whether the teachers in these schools would be prepared to give this more specific instruction. There was considerable danger that by accepting this Amendment they would imperil the smooth working of the present system of giving religious instruction.

During the time he (Lord Reay) was Chairman of the London School Board there were no difficulties, and he might remind the Committee that on the occasion of the Amendment to which he had alluded—Lord Lytton's Amendment—the most rev. Primate, then Lord Bishop of Winchester, stated that—

> "He saw great difficulty in such a plan as this working in the great board schools of our large towns, and that personally, if he were a manager of one of those schools, he would be very loth to take advantage of this privilege."

Therefore, the Committee would notice that, with regard to the difficulties, which he thought would be very great in provided schools, he could claim the most rev. Primate as being on his side. He would also remind the Committee that one of the most experienced educationists this country had ever known, and one of the fairest minded of men, Sir Joshua Fitch, had said of this proposal that—

> "The effect of the adoption of such a plan on the general discipline of the school, and on the authority of the head teacher, would be disastrous."

What would be the state of things which under this Bill would arise in London? Under the Bill the religious instruction given in the provided schools would remain what it was. In the transferred voluntary schools they would have either the facilities given under Clause 3 or the facilities given under Clause 4, and he trusted and believed that the local authority in London would certainly not be illiberal in conceding those privileges to transferred voluntary schools. Therefore, after the passing of this Bill, in the educational system of London there would be hardly any perceptible difference as regards the religious instruction in the different schools. But if they accepted the Amendment now before the Committee, then undoubtedly they created an element of friction with regard to the administration of the provided schools which was now absent.

He was quite prepared to admit that parents of children attending council schools, if they desired such supplemental and additional instruction as was contemplated in the Amendment, ought to have it, and he saw no objection whatever to such instruction being given out of school hours by the various Churches to which those parents belonged. There was no difficulty in giving opportunities out of school hours for the children in the council schools to get that education which already in many instances was given to them; and the excellent Biblical instruction which was imparted under the Cowper-Temple Clause in the London schools was an admirable foundation on which to build that further instruction which could be given on Saturday, or in Sunday-schools, or at other convenient hours. He was as anxious as his noble friend to meet the wishes of the parents and any conscientious scruples which might arise, but he was not convinced that the method proposed in this Amendment was the method most likely to attain that object. It was on this ground that he was not prepared to vote for the Amendment proposed by his noble friend.

*LORD AMPTHILL rose to move, as an Amendment to the proposed Amendment, that the word "ten" be substituted for the word "twenty." He desired to say a few words on the general principle of the Amendment before the Committee, and incidentally to make some reply to the noble Lord who had just spoken. The noble Earl the Lord President of the Council was good enough to suggest that he should make the explanation which he had to make regarding the Amendments standing in his name on the Paper in the discussion on Clause 3, and he could do so most conveniently at this moment without bringing up his actual Amendments. Indeed, he could do so in a very simple manner by merely referring to the eloquent speech which was made last night by the former Secretary for Scotland. That speech reminded him of a story which must have been familiar to their Lordships in their childhood, of a man who, being unable to commit to memory the prayers which he desired to say daily to the Almighty, or else being incapable of the effort of that repetition, wrote his prayers out on a card and performed his duty by pointing to the card daily and saying "Them's my sentiments." He (Lord Ampthill) thought, when listening to the noble Lord last night, that Lord Balfour's speech in every way represented the sentiments which he himself held.

If the Committee would allow him to refer to his noble friend's arguments as the justification of the case which he had intended to put forward, he would be able to refrain from reiteration just as he should refrain from pressing proposals which he knew were not acceptable to the Committee. He thought, however, that his Amendments would have effected the object which the noble Lord had in view in a more direct and simple manner. They would have done away with the necessity for all the complicated provisions in Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill. What were facilities unless they were exceptions to the rule? And when they made one rule for all by giving equal rights to all there could be no possible occasion for exceptions. He went further and claimed for the principle which had been advocated by the noble Lord that, so far from contravening the principle of the Bill, it only extended it to its logical conclusion. The Bill proposed that there should be facilities for some. The noble Lord's suggestion was that there should be facilities for all.

He agreed with the noble Lord that the Bill, however it might be amended, would not finally settle this question, and he could only share his noble friend's surprise that this Government, which boasted of being democratic, if it was nothing else, should not have put forward legislation more democratic in principle than that contained in this Bill. What, after all, was the object of the Bill? It was as well to keep that steadily in view. It was to assert a principle and to remove two grievances. The principle, that of popular control, had been fully asserted, but neither this Bill nor any Bill on similar lines would redress the grievances. What, then, were the grievances? As he understood, the grievances were simply these, that Nonconformists were obliged to pay for religious instruction of which they disapproved, and that Nonconformist teachers suffered from restricted opportunities of appointment and promotion. They could not fairly remove the first grievance by imposing it on Anglicans and Roman Catholics, nor the second by imposing even more painful and odious restrictions on teachers who were not Nonconformists, restrictions which disabled them from teaching in the manner in which they felt bound and obliged to teach, namely, in accordance with their own religious convictions and faith. As had been said by many, both in their Lordships' House and in another place, there were only two possible alternative solutions. The first was that the State should not provide religious instruction for anybody, and the second was that the State should provide for everybody the religious instructions desired. There was an overwhelming consensus of opinion in favour of the latter course, and that was why he had endeavoured to advocate that course in the simplest and most direct manner.

But he would ask their Lordships to follow him a step further. If it was agreed—and it was universally agreed, he thought—that religious instruction should form an integral and essential part of national education, why should the State not pay for it? Why, then, should it not be as compulsory as the secular part of education, and why should it be treated as a mere extra, like dancing, drawing, or deportment? He knew that the objection which would be made was the old one that they would have some ratepayers paying for religious instruction of which they did not approve; but, if they carried the principle of the Bill to its logical conclusion and gave to everybody the religious instruction that each man wanted, the natural and inevitable result would be that nobody would be paying for anybody else. As for the other objection, the tests for teachers, assuming that the numbers of teachers were in proportion to the numbers of their co-religionists, it followed, as a matter of course, that every teacher, with perhaps a negligible amount of exceptions, could be appointed to a school where his own creed was taught. He could not see any insuperable objections to this scheme, nor did he for one moment believe it would lead to that strife and difficulty which the noble Lord who spoke last had foreshadowed.

He would remind their Lordships that the principle which underlay State-provided compulsory pan-denominational religious instruction—the system which he was advocating and which he was convinced would eventually form the solution of this great question, already existed in the law of the land. It was asserted in the Industrial Schools Act, 1866, and in the Elementary Education (Schools for the Blind) Act, 1893, which was passed in the last year of Mr. Gladstone's Administration. He would quote the words from that Act, because they stated the principle in a most clear and unequivocal manner—

> "Where a child is required, in pursuance of this Act, to attend any school, the child shall not be compelled to receive religious instruction contrary to the wishes of the parents, and shall as far as practicable have facilities for receiving religious instruction and attending religious services conducted in accordance with the parents' persuasion, which shall be duly registered on the child's admission to the school."

He thought that was the way this system could be worked. There would be no necessity for calling meetings of parents and holding ballots. The religious persuasion of the parents, or the particular religion that the parents wished the child to be taught in the event of their not desiring it to receive instruction in the doctrines of their own religion, could be entered on the register on the child's entry to the school. The principle to which he had referred was also accepted and endorsed by the Unionist Party in putting forward their abortive Education Bill in 1906. He held that a system of State-provided denominational schools must sooner or later be the solution of this question; but he recognised the difficulty of introducing it in this Bill, and would not press the Amendment which stood in his name. In conclusion, he begged to move that the word "ten" be substituted for the word "twenty" in Lord Balfour's Amendment, for he considered it highly desirable that minorities should be protected. Ten was a good round number, and a minority of ten, he ventured to say, was not a negligible quantity.

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

> "To leave out the word 'twenty' and insert the word 'ten.'"—(*Lord Ampthill.*)

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, the noble Lord who has just sat down has in his remarks travelled over a somewhat wider field than that which I think was covered by the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh. I shall not, therefore, follow him, but I desire very briefly to state why I, at all events, am unable at this stage of the Bill to give my support to my noble friend. In speaking on the Second Reading of this Bill before the Recess I used a few words which briefly explained the position I take on the question which has been raised by my noble friend. I said on that occasion—

> "I have no doubt Amendments will be moved in this House for obtaining facilities for denominational teaching in council schools. For myself, I desire to see as little disturbance as possible of our existing system, and I do not desire to commit myself to support such Amendments until I see what, if any, concession the Government are prepared to make in regard to giving real facilities for denominational teaching in the transferred schools; but if no concessions in that direction are to be made, then I am of opinion that there is a good deal to be said for a provision which will place all provided schools on the same footing in regard to religious as well as to secular instruction."

I adhere to those words, and, although I cannot say that I see any very obvious signs that the Government are likely to make any concession which would secure what I should consider adequate facilities for religious instruction in the transferred schools, yet we have not yet disposed of either Clauses 3 or 4, which deal with these facilities. I think that, in pursuance of the pledge which I then gave, I should not be justified in supporting any interference with the Cowper-Temple Clause until I know whether we are fully possessed of the intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to the facilities in the transferred schools. But even if those facilities offered by the Government are not so satisfactory as I might desire, still I should hesitate to give my support to an Amendment of so wide a character as that which was proposed last night by my noble friend. It is almost identical, I think, with that which has been placed on the Paper by the most rev. Primate. My noble friend is reported in *The Times* to have said last night that he did not propose to repeal the Cowper-Temple Clause. I do not recollect hearing my noble friend make that statement, but he is reported to have so spoken in *The Times* report of his speech.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I did use those words. My opinion is that, although my Amendment cuts deeply into the Cowper-Temple Clause, it is not technically a repeal of it.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: It appears to me that the Amendment is not only a repeal of the Cowper-Temple Clause, but an absolute reversal of its principle. The Cowper-Temple Clause, as has been pointed out in these discussions over and over again, is simply of a prohibitive character. It prohibits the giving of denominational instruction in any schools which have been built at the public expense. The Amendment of my noble friend would not only repeal this prohibition, but it would positively indicate that in certain specified cases denominational instruction of that character should be given in these schools.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: But not paid for out of the rates.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE: The Cowper-Temple Clause provides that denominational instruction shall not be given in those schools at all. My noble friend's Amendment provides that, under certain circumstances, such teaching shall be given in those schools. I cannot conceive a more absolute repeal, and not only repeal but reversal, of the principle of the Cowper-Temple Clause. I have no doubt there would be a great deal to be said for leaving greater liberty to the local authorities, and permitting them, in cases where they thought fit, to grant facilities in the schools under their control for denominational teaching for the children of those parents who desire it. But that Amendment is not the Amendment which is before the Committee at the present time, and it is no use to discuss it.

My unwillingness to support this Amendment does not rest on any special importance which I attach to what is spoken of as the compromise of 1870. I attach no particular sanctity to the Cowper-Temple Clause. As I said in my speech on the Second Reading of this Bill, I do not see that it possesses any very great attraction for any of us. I entirely agree with what was said by the noble Viscount Lord St. Aldwyn the other day, that the so-called compromise of 1870 has, partly by the Act of 1902 and partly by the present Bill, been effectually destroyed. It is not on those grounds, therefore, that I deprecate any Amendment of the Cowper-Temple Clause. I know that the present Government in this Bill do propose a partial repeal of the Cowper-Temple Clause. If I feel, as I do, a very strong reluctance to agree to any further inroad on the Cowper-Temple Clause or its principle, it arises from the doubts which I entertain as to the practical working of any such attempt to modify it, and because of the apprehension which I feel that any attempt to enforce a reversal or modification of the Cowper-Temple Clause would cause a disturbance of the existing organisation and arrangements of a great number of board schools which are at present working in a perfectly smooth and satisfactory manner.

My noble friend says that he is of opinion that it is on the lines of this Amendment that the settlement of the religious difficulty must ultimately be found. I do not know that I should be inclined in any degree to controvert the proposition of my noble friend if I saw the slightest probability that the solution which he indicates would be accepted, not only by all religious sects in this country, but by those who are engaged in the practical work of education, or by the teachers who are engaged in that work. But, my Lords, I see no probability of any such general acceptance on the part of those who are practically engaged in the work of education, and it seems to me that any attempt to force it either upon the managers or upon the teachers in our board schools, probably in many cases unwilling authorities and unwilling teachers, would only tend to give additional fuel to the flames of our religious controversy.

I do not see any necessary difficulty in the arrangement under which it is proposed by the Bill that facilities for special religious instruction shall be given in the schools which are transferred to the local education authority. Those arrangements and the mode in which they are to be carried out will have been laid down in formal agreements between the present trustees of the schools and the local education authorities who are to take them over. Local authorities will have made themselves parties to those agreements, and I have no doubt whatever that they will loyally carry them out. There may, I think, be some difficulty in carrying out the facilities proposed to be given in a certain class of schools in the Amendment which was placed on the Paper yesterday by my noble friend Lord St. Aldwyn—an Amendment which, I do not exactly know why, has entirely disappeared from the Paper—but I do not think there would have been any insuperable difficulty in carrying out the arrangement which it proposed, that certain facilities should be given in council schools for children who were deprived of religious facilities in schools which might not be taken over by the local education authority.

The present proposal is not in any degree related to the case of the transferred schools. It is a proposal to impose upon a class of schools which are not otherwise affected by this Bill a provision to which a large number of them will probably entertain the strongest objection. The proposal to place in the power of a certain number—a large or a small number—of parents the right to demand that special religious facilities shall be given in these schools is one which is perfectly certain to be resented and resisted by a very large number of local authorities—a resistance in which they will be backed by the teachers, who will, either honestly or for controversial purposes, plausibly at all events, assert that such an arrangement would be destructive of the discipline and proper organisation of their schools.

I entertain a very strong opinion that, whatever Parliament may enact, it will be impossible, in practice, to enforce any such provision against an unwilling body of managers. The Amendment does contain the words "so far as may reasonably be practicable." In my opinion those would be found to be the most operative words in the Amendment. The unwilling managers, the managers who did not wish to see any change introduced in the organisation of their schools, would say that the granting of these facilities was not reasonably practicable, and there the matter would end unless the Board of Education were prepared, either by the insertion of provisions in the Code or by laying down regulations for each particular school, to solve this difficulty. The task is one I should be very unwilling to impose on the Board of Education. For these reasons, and believing that the Amendment would go very far in the direction of the disturbance of a system which at all events in the board schools is now working satisfactorily and well, I cannot assent, at any rate at the present stage of the Bill, to vote for the Amendment.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH) thought it would be well that he should say a few words to explain why it was impossible for those who sat on the Ministerial side to give their practical support to the Amendment of his noble friend. There would be general agreement that some religious teaching should be given to the young by teachers who believed in what they taught, but they were not discussing an abstract question of that kind. For himself, he confessed that, if it were acceptable to the general body of the people of this country, it would be an exceedingly desirable thing to make the

State responsible for secular education only and leave religion to the various religious bodies, but the House of Commons had decided most emphatically in favour of religious education.

The main objection to the proposal of his noble friend was on administrative grounds. Such a system of pan-denominationalism would result in—as had been said in the House of Commons—something like pandemonium, and in most schools there was not the accommodation to allow of such teaching being given. He would like to recall their Lordships' attention to the Bill itself. As the Bill now stood, with the Amendments introduced by their Lordships, local authorities would be bound to take over all schools subject to an appeal to the Board of Education, who would have regard to the wishes of parents, and it seemed to him to be superfluous to go on to say that in all the schools there should be these facilities. Clause 4 provided the four-fifths facilities, but did his noble friend propose that in these denominational schools there should be this provision for special teaching? Let them take the Roman Catholic schools. Were Methodists and members of the Church of England to enter Catholic schools and there teach their own particular doctrines? Clause 4 was considered by many not only a very considerable concession, but a very remarkable excrescence on the Bill as it now stood. Were provided schools to be subject to these facilities and were the other schools to be exempt? If his noble friend's Amendment were carried he did not think it would be possible for the Government to maintain that the special schools under Clause 4 were not to fare exactly in the same way as the board schools, and he was quite sure that the introduction of the principle now proposed by his noble friend in regard to the schools affected by Clause 4 would be deeply and most thoroughly resented by them.

There were in this country differences of principle which did not arise in Scotland. Although a noble Marquess had said that he was in favour of religious instruction of one sort or another, he did not care which, there was an enormous number of people in this country who were very much concerned as to the kind of religious education given; and the difficulties confronting them in regard to this Bill had been encountered in the attempt to formulate any kind of general religious instruction which would be acceptable to a large number of people. He sincerely wished they could support the Amendment of his noble friend, but he did not think they could, for the reasons he had stated. Part of the proposal would infringe one of the main principles of the Bill, which was that there should be in no sense whatever, direct or indirect, any religious test for the teacher.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I understand that my noble friend Lord Ampthill does not intend to press his Amendment, and he will, therefore, I am sure, acquit me of discourtesy if I do not attempt to discuss it. With some of the remarks which fell from him I am entirely in accord; but, speaking generally, I may say that his proposal went a good deal further than that embodied in my noble friend Lord Balfour's Amendment, and involved a much more considerable disturbance of the fabric of the Bill upon the Table. For that reason I am glad that he does not insist upon taking the opinion of your Lordships' House upon it.

With regard to the Amendment of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, my noble friend proposes that in transferred schools ordinary facilities should be given when they are stipulated for in the original bargain; and in the council schools he proposes that the same facilities should be given when they are demanded by a sufficient number of parents. I understand that it is to the second of those proposals that most of the objections which have been made this evening are directed. I observe that the noble Duke who spoke just now from the Table dwelt upon the fact that in the case of the transferred schools there would be an initial agreement which might be carried out without difficulty, and he pointed out that in the case of the council schools there would be no corresponding agreement. I take it that the way the thing would work would be this, that in the case of the council schools there would be an arrangement made subject to the approval of the Board of Education, and I cannot myself see that that distinction is very real, or that the difficulty is a very formidable one.

My noble friend Lord Balfour stipulates that these facilities should be given so far as is reasonably practicable. To me those are by no means meaningless or idle words. I regard them as meaning that the facilities should be given only when, after a full inquiry into all the facts of the case, it has been ascertained beyond doubt that the thing is possible without doing injustice or serious inconvenience to the parties concerned. These words, it is true, are somewhat vague words; but you must, in a Bill of this kind, however much you dislike it, leave a great deal of latitude to the authorities who will afterwards interpret it. You cannot possibly cover in an Act of Parliament of this sort all the minute points which are likely to arise in the administration of the law. In this case the local education authority and the Board of Education will have to decide in what manner effect can best be given to this provision. It may be desirable that we should add more directory words, or further safeguards. I am quite ready to discuss those if any noble Lord thinks fit to propose them, but upon the main principle of my noble friend's Amendment, that these facilities should be given in the case which I have supposed, I for one feel no doubt whatever.

While I say this, [I deprecate as much as the noble Duke did any needless interference with these council schools. The noble Lord who spoke first this evening quoted some observations made by the noble Duke in the year 1902 as to the objections to interference with the council schools. But, my Lords, surely the noble Lord must remember that the situation to-day is not the situation with which we were face to face with in 1902. In that year we were considering how the voluntary schools could best be preserved. In 1906 we are considering a proposal which some of us think is intended to obliterate the voluntary schools. Therefore, I disregard all *obiter dicta* carrying us back to the condition of things in 1902. I say by all means, if in any of these council schools things are working so smoothly and satisfactorily that nobody wishes to have them altered, let these schools be left alone. But if things are working with absolute smoothness and in a satisfactory manner there will be no demand for a change. The proposal of my noble friend refers only to cases in which the demand for a change is put forward by a substantial minority of parents. I go further and say that if it is the pleasure of any of your Lordships to propose that in cases where these facilities are unnecessary owing to the fact that other schools affording the kind of religion desired by the minority of the children are accessible, that would be clearly to my mind a circumstance which would have to be taken into consideration, and which might reasonably be held to remove the necessity for affording facilities in the school itself. If both those conditions are absent, if a substantial minority of the children really desire these facilities, and if they are unable to obtain them in another conveniently situated school, is it unreasonable to say that in this new departure which we are about to make it should be provided that those facilities should be given in the school itself? That seems to me only common sense and even-handed justice.

Then we have been warned of the immense administrative difficulties which attend this proposal. My Lords, we are confronted with considerable administrative difficulties in other parts of the Bill as it stands proposed by noble Lords opposite, and I do not gather that they are deterred by those administrative difficulties. Could anything be more complicated and difficult to administer than the provisions of Clause 4 as we find it in the Bill, and yet the Minister for Education declared only the other day that the mode of granting these facilities was in his mind a very small matter indeed. He could not conceive that dispute or discussion could ever arise. If it is so easy to deal with the administrative difficulties under Clause 4, why should it be so difficult to deal with the administrative difficulties which may or may not arise under the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh? Reference has been made to the position of the teacher under this Amendment. A great deal will depend upon the teacher and upon the position in which we leave the teacher after we have completed the consideration of the Bill in your Lordships' House. The noble Duke spoke of forcing upon the teacher the duty of giving religious instruction of this sort. There is no proposal—it does not enter into our minds to propose—that the teacher should ever be forced to give religious instruction of which he conscientiously disapproved.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I intended to say forced on the authority.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: But even the authority would not necessarily be compelled to give the instruction itself. What I do hope is that when this Bill leaves your Lordships' House the teacher will be allowed to give this instruction if he is willing and competent to give it, and I feel confident that if he is allowed to give it you will find in these council schools that he will be very glad to give it in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred. If he is capable of giving the Cowper-Temple instruction and is willing to give it, he probably will not be very reluctant to give special instruction to children who desire to obtain it; and I think he will certainly much prefer doing so to allowing teachers from outside to be imported into his school.

What has struck me throughout this argument is that His Majesty's Government are very easily deterred by the difficulties which are anticipated when our proposals are put forward, and that they are very courageous indeed when they have to face the difficulties which their measure must inevitably provoke. For is it not the case that His Majesty's Government are, under this Bill, going to put the 14,000 voluntary schools into the melting-pot, and yet are reluctant to allow any interference whatever with the 6,000 odd council schools which they are taking under their special care? In my view, if this Bill is to be made the foundation of anything which can be called a national settlement, the settlement must be on the basis of even-handed justice between the parties, and you will not get that even-handed justice unless, as a compensation for the far-reaching interference which is going to take place with the voluntary schools, you allow, subject to sufficient safeguards, these reasonable and moderate facilities in the council schools. We are asking you to act upon a principle upon which we are always in the habit of acting in the case of schools connected with the Army, with the Navy, and with our prisons; it is a principle which is accepted in Scotland; it is a principle which prevails in one at least of our great colonies; it is, above all things, a Liberal principle; and it is because I believe that this Bill is predestined to failure unless that principle is accepted, and accepted upon the lines of Lord Balfour's Amendment, that if he goes to a division I shall very gladly follow him into the lobby.

*THE EARL OF JERSEY said that on this Amendment he would not have the good fortune to follow his usual leader in the division which would take place. The action he proposed to take with regard to the Amendment of his noble friend Lord Balfour was not actuated by any indifference to religious teaching. Personally he was a denominationalist; but at the same time he recognised that it was impossible to carry out to the full under this Bill the proposal of Lord Balfour. What was their position at the present time? They were endeavouring to obtain the best possible terms for the schools which were to be transferred, and were anxious to retain in those schools religious teaching if possible. But the Amendment made a sort of raid on the compromise under the Act of 1870. It asked their Lordships to turn that arrangement inside out, and to obtain in the case of all schools free entry for religious instruction of any kind, no matter how small might be the number of children who required it in comparison with the total number of children in the school. He could not be a party to the tearing up of what was a compromise between two schools of thought under the Act of 1870, for he was convinced that if they succeeded in carrying the Amendment it would but increase very largely feelings of religious discontent and animosity in the country.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said that as he had ventured to put down an Amendment of a somewhat different character from that now under discussion, he hoped he might be permitted to say one or two words by way of explanation. The noble Lord in his Amendment had carried them into very deep water, and his (the right rev. Prelate's) desire was that they should, if possible, steer a little closer to the safe shore in this matter. The noble Lord's Amendment amounted to a claim for universal entry into all schools, and he ventured to think that nearly all those persons who had practical experience of the administration of our elementary schools in great towns and cities would agree that the inevitable effect of the Amendment would be to introduce administrative confusion. Moreover, as had been pointed out that afternoon, if all the already existing denominational schools were to be preserved, why, then, in the great centres of population, where there would be as a rule abundant choice of schools, did such an Amendment become necessary?

As to confusion, he felt sure that noble Lords had only to concentrate their thoughts on the matter for a moment to realise what confusion might arise at any moment, and what local quarrels, differences, and antagonisms might be evoked by such a proposal. Any sect which could say they had twenty or thirty children attending a particular school could demand entry into that school. Even in the case of the Church they might have various forms of religious instruction demanded in the same school and in the same room. Therefore he sincerely hoped the noble Lord and his friends would agree to withdraw the Amendment. He ventured to think that his own proposal was of a more practical and reasonable kind. He did not know how far even his proposal would be accepted by the great mass of the supporters of council schools; he had his fears, and yet his hopes; but he was sure that the Amendment moved by the noble Lord would be so deeply resented in a great part of the country that it would become an absolutely Utopian proposal.

He thought that any difficulty which existed would be met by the Amendment that he had placed on the Paper to the effect that in rural areas where there was but one public elementary school, if a reasonable number of the parents required facilities those facilities should not be refused. He made this proposal entirely on account of his own personal experience. In the city of Hereford it was only within the last few months that they had had even one single council school, the inhabitants, whatever their denominational views, having had to content themselves with either Church or Roman Catholic schools. If Lord Balfour's Amendment were to become law even this one school might be invaded by the denominations, and there would be a great deal of local resentment, to say nothing of administrative confusion. His own Amendment, he believed, would be sufficient for all reasonable requirements, since in schools in rural districts there was a reasonable claim for this kind of permission.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY said the reason why in country dioceses they felt so strongly was because they were asked to give up a very great deal indeed. They were giving up in 8,000 rural schools pretty nearly everything that had made the school question dear to them in past years. He did not think it was understood by noble Lords what enormous sacrifices they were asked to make. What they wanted was nothing for themselves specially, but something for the cause of religious education, in which they desired their Nonconformist brethren to have equal rights with themselves. Lord Balfour's Amendment was much more liberal than it had appeared to be—it gave facilities all round, and he might say that the Church as long ago as 1896 passed Resolutions in Convocation showing her perfect readiness to open her schools to Nonconformist teachers, provided facilities all round were granted.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN was glad the Bishop of Hereford proposed at least an Amendment which would do something for the rural districts. But if the same case could be shown to exist in urban districts he expected the right rev. Bishop would not discard the principle in that case. It was a principle which could not be disturbed by geography, but only by the existence of other opportunities for giving religious instruction. But they must look not only to the present but to the future, and see that those facilities would at a more distant date be given in transferred schools which they on that side desired. And in proportion as transferred schools might disappear, or might not be taken over at all, they should be anxious, he presumed, to secure facilities in council schools.

The Bishop of Hereford had spoken of the resentment that might be felt in regard to the council schools, 6,000 in number, but there were about 12,000 church schools, and was there no resentment on their side? Ought not the feelings of those who were responsible for those schools to be considered also? Let there be no talk about resentment, and let them endeavour to arrive at a fair compromise irrespective of any religious feeling on either side. Lord Jersey had objected to the compromise of 1870 being torn up. He was himself one of the authors of that compromise, and a greater tearing up of it he had never seen or imagined than this Bill, which supplanted those voluntary schools which were left and which were intended to be the chief educational resource of the country, and whose continued existence was to be encouraged. The tearing up argument could not hold good for a moment.

Noble Lords opposite were doubtless glad of the inroad which was made on the voluntary schools in 1902. He would not labour the point, but he must insist upon it, that that compromise was gone, that it could no longer be considered as existing. They must build a new structure altogether, and that new structure must be founded on justice to all denominations. It was said that the Amendment went too far. It might, perhaps, go too far for the moment, but they had got to look ahead, and why he was strongly in favour of the principle of the Amendment was that he foresaw that the number of voluntary schools, before they were transferred and after they were transferred, were going to be reduced more than noble Lords on the other side of the House had hitherto acknowledged was likely to be the case.

Mr. Birrell's idea was that there would be few schools that would not be taken over—he contemplated that the majority would be taken over. He thought that view must have been exploded to a very considerable degree by the debates on Clause 2, and by no one more than by Lord Stanley of Alderley. It was the avowed policy of that noble Lord, and of the educational Party with whom he acted, to amalgamate, to concentrate schools as far as possible, and to diminish the number of the voluntary schools. Therefore, they must contemplate, partly from educational reform, partly from municipal ambition, and partly, possibly, from prejudice—he hoped not in many cases—that from all these causes acting together a number of voluntary schools would not be taken over, and if they were not to be taken over, surely simple justice required that, if large numbers disappeared, as they were bound to disappear, in the council schools which were to take their place and supersede them, there should, at all events, be facilities for those children who had had to leave the voluntary schools because they were extinguished by the action of the local authority.

He hailed the acknowledgment of that principle by the Bishop of Hereford. He wished he could hail it on the part of the Government. Would the Government acknowledge that principle to a certain extent? Would they say "We disagree with your premise, but we recognise that, in proportion as the voluntary schools disappear, the parents who like denominational religion shall have facilities for their children in the council schools?" A declaration on the part of the Government that they thought that justice would go far to meet their views on this part of the subject. He felt strongly that it was the bounden duty of that House, as a matter of justice, to provide liberally for the children who were now in the 14,000 denominational schools, and to ensure that, in proportion as they came under county councils, denominational teaching should be afforded by the local authorities.

THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I think perhaps it is as well that I should intervene at this point in this important discussion. As the noble Lord, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, whose Amendment we are considering, said last night, this is one of the great and important Amendments of the Bill, and I need not say that I have listened with the deepest interest to my noble friend's speech. If he will allow me to say so, I think he travelled somewhat unnecessarily beyond the actual terms of his Amendment. He devoted a very considerable portion of his speech to the question of tests for teachers. I have no doubt that the noble Lord considered it necessary to his argument to do so, but I am bound to say that while I was admiring the fervid eloquence of my noble friend, I could not help thinking what would have been the fate of a learned counsel appearing before one of those tribunals over which my noble friend presides with such distinction who attempted, in discussing Clause 3, to devote half his time to Clause 8.

The discussion to-night has not followed so wide a range. It was begun by my noble friend Lord Reay, who, as a former chairman of the London School Board, speaks with great authority on this question. I have no doubt that we shall later have the pleasure of hearing another ex-chairman of the London School Board opposite taking part in it. My noble friend Lord Balfour spoke last night of his Amendment as going a long way towards the establishment of a national system, approximating schools to one type. I do not mean to say that that is exactly what the noble Lord said, but it is evident that what is meant by a national system in this connection is a very great uniformity of type in our schools; and the noble Viscount who has just sat down said, I think, in very much the same sense, that no system could be said to be of a national character which was not fair all round and which did not deal out equal justice in this religious matter to all the different parties.

There is one noble Lord who had an Amendment on the Paper—Lord Ampthill—who, I think, has had rather scant justice done to him in the course of this debate. I think that his Amendment approached far more nearly to the ideal of a national system than either the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Balfour or that of the most rev. Primate. What Lord Ampthill proposed was a really national system. He would sweep away Clauses 3, 4, and 5, all his schools are of one type, and every school in England and Wales would depend upon the existing conditions. That is a perfectly intelligible policy if you could carry it out in this country, and I am very far from saying that there is not a great deal to be said for it, but it is not the policy which is carried out by the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Balfour or by that of the most rev. Primate. Lord Balfour and the Archbishop of Canterbury in effect maintain a very large number of denominational schools, and give to a great many more schools a possible denominational character which they do not at present possess. Think what sort of schools might exist under Lord Balfour's Amendment. You have a transferred school in a small country village where the church atmosphere is strong. It gets five days a week facilities, the teacher is to be a Churchman, and he is to give the religious teaching.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: Five days a week?

THE EARL OF CREWE: There is no reason why it should not be so under Lord Balfour's Amendment. The teacher, as I say, is a Churchman and is to give the religious teaching. Will anybody who knows what the atmosphere of the ordinary country village is say that that can be anything but a purely denominational school, for which the local authority will be paying the rent, for which it will be undertaking the cost of all the repairs? I have no doubt that the most rev. Primate will say that he would be delighted to offer any Nonconformist child in that parish facilities. What, again, to anybody who knows the conditions of life in a village of that kind is the use of offering facilities to a small number of Primitive Methodist children?

In the first place, who is to give the teaching? Everybody knows that in these very poor churches those who would naturally give that teaching are, as a rule, working men, whose time would be taken up at the necessary hour. In these circumstances I am sure that the most admirable and fairly-intended reciprocal offer of facilities by the Church of England in these districts would be, and would be held to be by those for whom it was intended, nothing but illusory.

After all, facilities depend not merely on the offer of certain things, but on the power of using them. There are facilities for most things. If a poor curate earning £100 a year is ordered to take a long sea voyage for the benefit of his health, the facility exists for him the same as for any Member of your Lordships' House, but there are necessary also leisure and wealth, which I am glad to think your Lordships' possess, but which are lacking in the case of the unfortunate curate. What I desire your Lordships to consider in this connection is that there are two distinct possible systems, one dependent upon the past history of these denominational schools, and the other dependent upon the wishes of the parents and the circumstances of the moment. Those are two utterly different things, and, in many cases, very likely utterly incompatible things. After all, the trust represents the benevolence and money of some person or persons who is or are either dead or will be dead before very long. The trust coolly proceeds on its way year after year, through generations of children, insisting on a certain kind of teaching without any necessary reference to the wishes of the parents. The wishes of the parents, if they are paramount, depend upon some such plan as that proposed by my noble friend Lord Ampthill. What we complain of is that in these Amendments the Church of England is trying to have it both ways.

In all cases where there has been a trust, in all these ex-denominational schools as they are to be, you insist upon every possible care being taken for the preservation, so far as may be, of the denominational atmosphere. The most rev. Primate spoke the other day of some plan by which the managers of such schools should have some voice, at any rate, in the election of the teacher, even if they were not empowered to veto a particular teacher. No one can have listened to the discussions of the last few days without having seen that the desire of the majority of this House is that these transferred schools should retain as far as possible their Church character. Noble Lords opposite cheer; they do not wish to conceal it. Then it does seem to me a most astonishing thing that, besides enforcing in this House that claim, you also want to invade the schools of the country—the board schools—which have been hitherto free from all denominational teaching of any sort or kind.

If you are prepared utterly to resign and give up the denominational character of the transferred schools and go for the single system suggested by the noble Lord opposite, Lord Ampthill, I am bound to say that nobody could contend that that would be an unfair plan, but whether it is a practicable and possible plan in this country under existing circumstances is quite another matter. It would no doubt have a great many advantages from our point of view. We should get rid of practically all the trouble connected with the transfer of these schools, and we should get rid of the exceedingly complicated and, as we frankly admit, not entirely satisfactory conditions of Clauses 4 and 5. But I should like to hear some noble Lord who is able to speak for the Roman Catholic Church state what in his opinion the position of things would be if we had a system of schools which denied atmosphere and merely granted facilities.

I turn for one moment to the Amendment as it stands. I admit once more the great attractiveness of the idea. It undoubtedly would mean that instead of attempting to give a *quid pro quo* to the Church of England, as we do by means of the minor facilities in each parish and by way of rent, we should be offering to the Church a national *quid pro quo* pooled, so to speak, over the whole ecclesiastical system, and which therefore would avoid the countless details with which, undoubtedly, this present settlement will have to deal. I ask once more, Can that be done? The noble Duke opposite (the Duke of Devonshire) speaks with great experience and authority on this matter, and I cannot help thinking that your Lordships must have been greatly impressed by his inability to see how this proposal could work. This multiplication of facilities has, as it seems to me, this one fatal defect, that you cannot find any educational authority who will speak favourably of it.

It is not the case that the opposition to this proposal is mainly or essentially a Nonconformist opposition; there is, as a matter of fact, a considerable number of Nonconformists who are friendlily disposed towards it. I do not know whether some of your Lordships remember an attempt that was made by various leading citizens of Manchester representing the interests of the Church and of Nonconformity, who arrived at what was published at the time as the Manchester compromise, in which this granting of general facilities under certain circumstances had a place. It is an educational objection that is taken. I very much doubt whether you will find in this House, or out of it, for the matter of that, anyone qualified to speak with real authority as an educationist who will not express grave doubt as to whether this proposal can be carried through. I desire, therefore, to ask the noble Marquess opposite (Lord Londonderry) who has put to me many questions, all of which I am afraid I have not been able to answer, some because I did not think they were relevant, whether, with his considerable experience of the Board of Education, he would be able to approach this proposal in a perfectly light-hearted manner, and whether he believes that it could be carried out in the great towns without very great difficulty.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I may say——

THE EARL OF CREWE: I will not trouble the noble Marquess to answer me at this stage. One assumption is sometimes made which seems to me to be rather a cool assumption. It is this, that when you grant these general facilities in a school of Nonconformists they will be content with one type of teaching. I cannot imagine why they should be. It may be perfectly true that Nonconformists as a rule are willing to accept as a matter of compromise undenominational teaching as the standard teaching for their children, but if you are going to allow Baptists and Methodists to give their special teaching by way of facilities in those schools I cannot see why they should refrain or be expected to refrain from doing so. I have not heard from Nonconformist bodies any intention expressed of treating extra facilities in the way it is conveniently supposed by noble Lords opposite and others they will be treated. It will not merely be a question of Cowper-Temple teaching on the one hand and Church teaching on the other.

There are two other Amendments on the Paper which deal in a diluted form with this question. The Amendment standing in the name of the Lord Bishop of Hereford deals only with council schools in rural areas where there is no other school. That proposal is, of course, not open to a great number of the objections which can be and are advanced against the wider proposal of the noble Lord opposite. At the same time I confess that I should look forward with some dread, even in these cases, to the alteration of the existing conditions, not because the actual giving of the teaching would be difficult in these cases, but because the disturbance of the system which has existed for a considerable number of years in these districts seems to me to carry with it certain dangers, though I frankly admit, of course, that the Amendment is not open to a great many of the objections which can be advanced against the Amendment of the noble Lord.

We have not had the advantage of hearing the noble Viscount opposite (Viscount St. Aldwyn) state his case for the different kind of facilities which he desires to give in the case of discontinued schools, but I mention the subject on this occasion because I am anxious to learn from the noble Viscount exactly what it is that he proposes to do. When a school is discontinued, I understand that he desires that the displaced Church children should have facilities elsewhere. When the noble Viscount speaks no doubt he will tell me whether that is intended to apply only to the children now attending the school, to the generation of children only, or whether it is intended to apply for all time to their successors, because the two things are of course, very different. If it is intended to apply to their successors, the result would be that, though the denominational school would be dead, its ghost would haunt the neighbourhood for all time. I confess I am rather puzzled to see in these circumstances in what schools the noble Viscount would propose that facilities should be offered.

Surely it would be hardly reasonable, if there were five council schools and one voluntary school in a district, that all the council schools should be subject to the facilities upon the discontinuance of the voluntary school. There are a considerable number of areas at the present moment in which there are only council schools, and there Church children get on very well with the Cowper-Temple teaching and their Sunday schools, and that is the answer I make to the noble Viscount. There is no reason to suppose that in those areas the Church is less popular or the children less religiously attached to the Church. I cannot help thinking that the noble Viscount's fears are illusory. Your Lordships will not be surprised, after the remarks I have made, when I say that, as it stands, we are entirely unable to accept the Amendment of my noble friend opposite. I can only assume that the other Amendments by the noble Viscount and the right rev. Prelate are not likely to come before the Committee, but, at any rate, we have had the advantage of discussing them, and are able to bear in our minds the alternative possibilities connected with this problem.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said he had been reluctant to offer an explanation of a proposal not before the Committee. He had desired to deal with the case in which an educational authority refused to continue a denominational school on account of a desire to improve secular teaching by amalgamating schools, or by reason of the denominational school having really become not necessary for school accommodation. The discontinuance might be due to no fault of owners or managers. In such a case he proposed that the children who were attending, or who might attend, that school if it had remained open as a denominational school should be able to obtain the denominational teaching to which they had been accustomed in some other school in the district of the authority, possibly in a council school. Certainly he would have the facility continued, it would be unreasonable to confine it to the existing school generation.

The proposal of course differed materially from that which now occupied the attention of the Committee, and which, if carried, would make his Amendment impossible. His proposal was really automatic in its effect. If a local authority chose to continue a denominational school it would not come into effect; it would only be effective through the voluntary action of the authority, and since the Amendment of the Archbishop of Canterbury had been carried the cases in which it would operate would be few. The Amendment of Lord Balfour would open council schools all over the country to denominational teaching, a very wide proposal indeed. In the first place, was it really necessary? In a case where there was one council school and several denominational schools, was it reasonable that facilities should be granted in the council school? He listened with all attention to Lord Goschen, who seemed to apprehend a large discontinuance of denominational schools, but seemed to have forgotten the alteration made in the second clause. If that remained in the Bill his noble friend's fears would be groundless. The speech of the Under-Secretary for War encouraged the hope that the alteration made in the second clause would become law, and nowadays they attached very great weight to observations made by Under-Secretaries. He had heard with great pleasure so high an authority as the noble Earl admit the possibility of the Amendment made last night becoming law.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH said he was showing how noble Lords opposite would stultify their own Amendments.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN understood the noble Earl to say there was no necessity for the Amendment after what had been done, and his argument fell to the ground unless it was supposed that what had been done would be effective. But he would refer to a higher authority still, the Lord President of the Council, who in effect said, "If you will give up the denominational character of your schools, making them all undenominational, then the proposal might be favourably considered."

**THE EARL OF CREWE**: Not quite that.

***VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN**: He went very far in that direction. But would the noble Earl take the converse? If they desired to maintain the denominational character of their schools, would he view with a favourable eye a later Amendment for preserving that denominational character? The present proposal went beyond the real necessities of the case. The practical administrative difficulties had been pointed out, and he would not refer to them beyond saying those difficulties might be removed if there were really a popular demand.

But was there such a demand? It was now thirty-six years since the Act of 1870 was passed, forbidding denominational teaching in board schools. Millions of children of Church of England parents had been taught in those schools, and had there been any real popular movement on the part of those parents to obtain denominational teaching? He ventured to say the matter had never been heard of until the present year. During all that time the greatest advocates of denominational teaching, the Church of England, the Catholics, the Jews, had done their best to secure denominational teaching. Where? In the board schools? No. To maintain their denominational schools intact, that had been their effort. It was their effort now, not in the country schools only. They wanted to make this Bill a fair Bill to the denominations. That was the object of the Amendments placed on the Paper to Clauses 3 and 4, and to those Amendments he would give his most hearty support.

There was something more which he was bound to say had a great influence on his own mind. Was this a practical proposal? Could any one of them say it really had a chance of becoming law? He did not allude to the opposition to it which had been declared by members of His Majesty's Government. They had been bound, and would be bound in the case of many other Amendments, to declare their opposition owing, no doubt, to the position taken up by their colleagues in the other House. But he hoped that some day they might change their minds on some of these points at all events. But was it likely that they would change their minds on this proposal? Was the House of Commons likely to accept such an Amendment as this?

He did not wish to stand up before their Lordships as suggesting for a moment that they should attach too great importance to the voice of the House of Commons. A majority of the House of Commons was a very fleeting majority, as some had found out in the last two or three years; and the majority of the present House of Commons might not really represent the opinion of the people on this Bill. But he had been much struck with an observation made by Lord Balfour in moving this Amendment, that it was based on a proposal actually made to the House of Commons in 1896 and which met with no favour at all. There never was a House of Commons more favourable to denominational education than the House of 1896. Was it likely that a proposal scouted then would receive approval now? He did not think so. He was anxious for a real settlement of this burning question. He believed that the longer this controversy went on the worse it was for religion and for education too. But of this he was quite certain, that it could only be settled by reason and moderation on both sides, and so far as his humble vote was concerned he would be no party to inserting in this Bill a proposal which he believed would have no popular support, because he thought that was not the way to ensure a real and lasting settlement.

***THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS** said that, despite the able argument to which the Committee had just listened, he would venture to support the Amendment of Lord Balfour and to thank him for his noble utterance of the previous evening in a speech which would be long remembered in that House. This Bill must be considered as a whole and not only in relation to an Amendment which, although carried in that House, might be roughly treated elsewhere.

What did they give up under this Bill? The entire control as well as management of the voluntary schools was taken over; except under Clause 4 the teachers need not be denominational; all tests so called of teachers were to be removed; no religious teaching was provided in school hours except by the Amendment of their Lordships carried a day or two ago; where religious teaching was given there was no security that the teacher would really believe what he taught; the conditions in regard to the training of teachers which had been the main cause of the excellence even of the Cowper-Temple teaching would now be altered, as so many more would be raised in colleges which had not a definite religious basis, and the council schools would henceforth lack the stimulus of the healthy rivalry of the denominational schools. When they considered the *quid pro quo* offered in the Bill, all that was what the *quo* meant.

As to the *quid*, could the facilities given under Clauses 3 and 4, even coupled with the Amendment carried already in their Lordships' House, be deemed adequate by those who valued denominational education? It was because he believed the *quid* was not an equivalent for the *quo* that he looked for some root principle to help them in the national education of the future. Such a root principle he found in Lord Balfour's Amendment. He denied that the grievance affected only the country schools. He represented not merely a very large country district, but a part of what was called Greater London, with a population of 800,000 increasing at the rate of 30,000 a year. In this population a large number of parents desired denominational teaching for their children and had not been able to obtain it, because it had been wholly impossible for the building of schools to keep pace with the increase to which he referred. Was it unreasonable that those parents who directly or indirectly paid rates should ask for the facilities which would enable them to obtain for their children the education which they believed to be the best?

The noble Earl the Lord President of the Council had told them that the offer of facilities in the country villages was practically of no use, because there were no people besides those of the Church of England able to take advantage of such facilities. He questioned the facts. He knew of villages where facilities had been offered and accepted by Nonconformists. And even if the fact were as alleged, was that a fair reason for refusing to allow facilities to such as were willing to use them? There was no desire on the part of the Church of England managers to use their schools for the purpose of proselytism. They were perfectly ready to give to the children of other denominations attending their schools Biblical teaching which satisfied their parents, or else afford to these parents facilities for having their children taught the religion which they held dear. Equal justice all round could only be attained on the principle of equal facilities all round.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH thought it would be hardly courteous on his part if he refrained from saying what had been the result on his mind of the discussion. He had laid before their Lordships a proposal which he still believed was the ideal solution of the education problem, and one to which he was convinced the logic of events would sooner or later force the country. He acknowledged at once that he had not a tithe of the right to speak upon English matters that many of those who had followed him in the debate had by long-continued association with administrative affairs. The system they all desired, or to which, at any rate, they gave lip service, was one that would be fair and equal all round, a national settlement which would last at least as long as the settlement of 1870; and he was convinced a settlement of that character would not be reached unless the Government were prepared to make great changes in their Bill. He admitted that his Amendment would make a great change in the Bill. He also admitted it had not received from his own side that measure of support which had been given to other proposals. He was ready, if necessary, to go into the division lobby for it as an assertion of what in the abstract he believed to be right and fair. But he was prepared to withdraw it if he got any indication from Ministers that when other Amendments came to be discussed they would receive them with a slightly more open mind than they had received Amendments hitherto. At any rate, before he withdrew the Amendment he should like to hear what the noble Marquess, who was the real leader of the forces on the Opposition side, and the most rev. Prelate had to say on the situation.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he shared to the full the difficulty which the noble Lord felt as to how they were really to understand their position in the present situation. At least two members of the Government had appealed to the fact that particular Amendments having been carried had qualified their action in regard to other Amendments that had been proposed. That was either a taunt which he thought undeserved, or else it was a recognition that the Amendments which had been carried were not to be, he did not say altered or modified, but to be treated hereafter as nothing at all. That argument showed that the position had been changed by the carrying of these Amendments, and if that meant anything it meant a great deal.

He thought the Government did not adequately recognise the difficulties of the situation in which those who adhered to denominational principles would be placed if no Amendment of the kind proposed by the noble Lord was made in the Bill. In that there was nothing unfair. All that he had asked for and striven for was absolute equality of treatment all round. The President of the Board of Education had on more than one occasion called attention to the fact that, as he put it, every Nonconformist in the land was now by this Bill to have access to the kind of teaching he wanted. He maintained that that carried with it a correlative on the other side. There were other people who did not find that teaching what they wanted, and so far as was practicable—and of course he admitted that in many cases there might be difficulties—some adequate security, apart from the mere desire of a friendly local authority or the like, ought to be promised them that that principle was going to be recognised. Once let them understand that the principle was going to be recognised that the man eagerly keen about denominational teaching for his children was so far as was in any way practicable to have access to that teaching, then he felt it came to a matter of degree how that was arranged. But unless that principle was recognised it was unfair to push them forwards and to maintain that fairness was being meted out all round.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I rise only because my noble friend Lord Balfour made an appeal to me as well as to the noble Marquess opposite. I do not desire to prolong the discussion. As to the merits of the Amendment before the Committee, I have already expressed my own views, and those views remain unchanged. What I think we, on this side, have to consider is our position in regard to this Amendment after the debate which has taken place. To my mind what should weigh with us most is the question of the amount of authority with which this Amendment would go down to the House of Commons. Supposing we were to carry it this evening after the debate to which we have listened, we might carry the Amendment, but it is obvious that we should carry it by a much diminished majority in view of the opinions expressed by some of those with whom we are in the habit of acting, and for whose opinions we have the most sincere respect. In these circumstances it would be idle to expect that the vote of this House would ultimately prevail, and I for one should be sorry to encourage your Lordships to take part in what might prove to be a mere parade movement. In these circumstances, if my opinion is desired, it is that my noble friend would do well not to press his Amendment to a division. I say that, feeling that he has called the attention of the Committee to a very serious imperfection of the Bill, and with the hope that an attempt will be made, and that His Majesty's Government will assist us in the endeavour, at a future stage, to do something, at all events, to remedy that defect.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I think my noble friend who has just sat down has given very discreet advice to my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh. The most rev. Primate has again appeared to me to have a fear in his mind that we shall take some debating objection to future Amendments. I beg to reassure the most rev. Primate that we shall do nothing of the kind. Nothing which you have done will be quoted against you in that respect; of that the most rev. Primate may be quite sure. Lord Balfour asked me whether His Majesty's Government thought this Bill a fair Bill. Yes, my Lords, we do think it a fair Bill. Then we are asked what we are going to do about future Amendments. We shall consider them when they are brought forward; we shall discuss them when they are brought forward; and they shall receive our consideration. I cannot give, and I do not give, any pledge as to the mode in which we will deal with them here or elsewhere, but we shall treat the Amendments with the respect and attention which is due to them.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: In the circumstances I ask leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD said that in speaking on the Amendment of Lord Balfour of Burleigh he had explained why he could not agree to anything like a universal right of entry into all schools, whether in rural or in urban areas. At the beginning of this controversy his judgment was in favour of giving ordinary two-day facilities in all schools wherever situated, but on construing that into what he might call the language of administration he had been driven to the conclusion that it would be a practical impossibility, without a great deal of administrative confusion at all events, to claim facilities in all schools in all districts. He therefore desired to limit the claim to country districts in which, as a rule, there was only one school in each parish, and consequently only one school within reach of the children of the parish. Thus the Amendment he proposed to move was to insert after the word "schoolhouse" the words—

> "Or if in any parish in a rural area there is only one public elementary school provided for the children of the parish, and the parents of a reasonable number of children have required such facilities, the local education."

In rural parishes, as a rule, there was only one school within reach of the children of the parish. In some cases, although the schools had been denominational schools, they had, owing to local causes, been transferred to school boards, or a board school had been erected. Under the changed circumstances these schools would be in all educational respects exactly like the transferred schools; the parishes would be in exactly the same position and of the same character as the neighbouring parishes in which there would be transferred schools with facilities, and he could see no reason why the two classes of schools should be treated differently in the future. No difficulty would arise in administration, and in most cases the gift of the facilities would be agreeable to all parties. He could not see any vital objection to the proposal, nor would the principle of equal justice be in any way interfered with, and it was desirable, wherever practicable, to give these facilities under the new system so as to provide equality of opportunity and to take away the sense of grievance to as large an extent as possible. In many matters of legislation the conditions of the towns overshadowed those of the country; the people in rural districts were sometimes overlooked, and their needs, conditions, and requirements not adequately considered. Wherever it could be shown that there was no opportunity for parents to obtain equal facilities with others, that good administration would not be interfered with, and that the concession would not cause confusion in the new system, he thought the principle for which his Amendment contended ought to be applied. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'schoolhouse,' to insert the words 'or if in any parish in a rural area there is only one public elementary school provided for the children of the parish, and the parents of a reasonable number of children have required such facilities, the local.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY regretted that the Committee had not had the opportunity of seeing the Amendment in print before being asked to discuss it. As far as he understood it, the idea of the right rev. Prelate was to give the parents of the children in the schools, where difficulty arose, an opportunity of having that religious instruction which they desired. If it were clearly shown that the parents were to have the instruction they desired, independently of other difficulties, speaking for himself—he could not pledge his noble friends on the subject—he saw no reason why the Amendment should not be accepted.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said that everyone must be in sympathy with the idea underlying the Amendment. Doubtless all their Lordships would wish that in establishing a national system there should be as much consideration as possible shown for those who did not fit into it, so that provided the system were really national, there might be those alleviations to meet the real desires of any substantial section of the community. There was not much substance in the complaint that the Amendment was not in print, as it was substantially the same as an Amendment of which notice had been given, except that it was limited to rural areas, and instead of taking the area in general the definite expression of a "parish" was now used. On a previous occasion the Lord President of the Council had pointed out that there was no special area for school provision. Formerly the parish was *prima facie* the area, but since the county councils had had charge of the work the areas had been whatever the county councils thought suitable in their individual districts, and if the Amendment was to be adopted it would be much more convenient to have a definite term which did not leave the door open to disputes afterwards. In rural districts, as a rule, the parish corresponded very fairly with the local possibilities of attendance at school. In principle there was no more reason why a person in a rural district should have these facilities than a person in an urban district who had no school available. The object was to ask for a little, and not complicate the matter by wider difficulties.

He desired to refer to one or two practical difficulties in the way of giving effect to the proposal before the Committee. The proposal was that if the parents of a reasonable number of children in a rural district wished for facilities they should have a right to use the school on two mornings a week in the same way as if it were a transferred school. With the best intentions in the world very serious difficulties would be found in working the provision, even in the case of transferred schools. For instance, in many parishes in Lincolnshire, where a considerable majority of the population were Wesleyans, although the school was a Church school, there would be general Bible teaching given for the school as a whole, and there would be the difficulty of providing distinctive teaching on two mornings a week for perhaps less than one half of the children. Even in those village schools where a separate class room was provided for the infants it would be almost impossible to have two classes going on at the same time in the room devoted to the older children. Therefore, if this proposal was to be worked, whether for the transferred schools or on the extended scale now suggested, it could only be done with administrative comfort by putting the whole building, on the mornings set apart for facilities for teaching, at the disposal of those who desired that teaching, and making the school, so far as the rest of the scholars were concerned, a secular school, commencing at half-past nine. The effect would then be that the community would have the use of the school for general Bible teaching on three mornings in the week, while on two mornings the building would be entirely at the disposal of those for whom the facilities were granted. It was not likely that in a village there would be two competing sets of persons wanting denominational instruction. It should be remembered that when all the class rooms were occupied, the mere fact of withdrawing a few scholars from each class for special instruction did not make a classroom available, as the residue of each class would still be occupying the classroom, so that in practice the scheme would have to be carried out in some other way. It would be the invasion—he did not say the repeal—of the Cowper-Temple clause, carried one step further than the perfectly fair invasion made in effecting the transfer from schools which had been wholly denominational to schools which in future were to be under public management. It would, however, be better if the clause were made permissive instead of compulsory. Except where the Cowper-Temple clause was suspended in the case of transferred schools for those who had these rights on two mornings in the week, it was illegal for an authority to permit any religious instruction other than Cowper-Temple instruction during school hours. Parliament, of course, could permit it, and many local authorities, if a reasonable case were made out, would be willing to grant these facilities if they had the power and were able to look at all the circumstances, whereas if the clause were compulsory there might be great difficulties. He was trying to speak as far as possible in support of the idea of the right rev. Prelate, being anxious, provided there was a determination on the part of the Committee frankly to accept a national public system for all the schools, to do all that could consistently be done to make the transition easy and to meet the feelings and wishes of those who more or less stood out from the national system. But it was only fair on his part to say that that wish must go hand in hand with an honest and frank recognition on the other side of the municipal character of the teacher of the future and his absolute immunity from all tests. He had noticed once or twice an attempt to turn the immunity from all tests into a mere conscience clause for the teacher. If there was any attempt to make it *prima facie* the duty of the teacher to give this teaching, unless he pleaded conscientious objections, it would be very difficult, in fact impossible, for himself and others to try to meet the right rev. Prelate and his supporters in a friendly way.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN said that in asking for the sympathetic consideration of His Majesty's Government for this Amendment he naturally had a little parental prejudice in favour of his own proposal, but he did desire that some recognition should be given in the Bill of the extreme hardship that the suppression of facilities for denominational teaching might be to not a few parents in areas where there was only one school. He had attempted to meet the difficulty in one way, although his Amendment did not go so far as that of the right rev. Prelate, and he would be glad to hear the views of other right rev. Prelates who had intimate experience of these small country schools, and could, therefore, speak with real knowledge. Personally, he did not see why the Amendment should be confined to rural areas. The hardship would, generally speaking, undoubtedly be greater in the rural areas, but it might also occur in some districts in towns. His object in rising, however, was not to go into the subject at length, but to ask the noble Earl to afford reasonable consideration to the hard cases which might arise.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY agreed that the Amendment ought to go beyond what were called rural areas. Personally, he did not know what a rural area was technically, and would like to be officially informed. But there were a number of small country towns, of 1,000, 2,000, or 3,000 inhabitants, which certainly deserved the relief given by this clause, and if any relief were given at all they were just the places where it was wanted. They did not want a second school or rival schools, but they did desire fair conditions so that those who were really the bulk of the population could have access on week-days as well as on Sundays to the teaching they were anxious to receive. Reference had been made to the lack of class rooms and the word "pandemonium" had been used. He had never been able to see the force of that argument. Had noble Lords never heard of parish rooms and church rooms in the villages? Up to recently it was the constant habit of the clergy to take their children across to the church and give instruction, and there were plenty of places, dissenting chapels among them, where such teaching could be given. He hoped their Lordships would not allow that futile objection to be raised again.

*LORD COURTNEY said they all must feel that there were difficulties to be surmounted in the transition about to be made, and unless they were fairly faced with a view to their solution Parliament might at the end discover that the administrative difficulties involved in the proposal of Lord Balfour of Burleigh would somehow or other have to be surmounted, and that, like many other men, the noble Lord had only been speaking a little before his time. The speeches which caused that Amendment to be withdrawn were eminently dilatory speeches, simply pleading the difficulties of the subject, and admitting that if circumstances compelled some similar recommendation would have to be faced. The present proposal was of a very simple character, and he would deprecate any attempt to extend it. The right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Salisbury thought the principle might be applied elsewhere. No doubt it might. The noble Lord Viscount St. Aldwyn had said there were many urban districts in which the same difficulty would arise, and that there was no reason why the principle should not be applied there. But surely this was a question of practical action, and the Committeee ought to regard what they could do on a modest scale. If they could get the principle involved in this proposal recognised they should hail it, even though it did not meet all the hard cases that might arise. The proposal was that in single school districts in rural areas facilities should be afforded to minorities in such schools. He was one of those who had voted with a perfectly clear conscience against the amendment of Lord Heneage, not because he was opposed to recognising the value of religious educaion, but because he thought it better to leave the local authority to determine, as in the past, what the character of the education should be. If it was desired that religious instruction should form part of the curriculum of the schools, the best way to secure that end was not to impose the duty upon the local authority, but to convert the electors, and so bring about a change in those few cases where religious instruction was not provided for. Although he strongly supported the undenominational principle as the normal principle, he would always have great tenderness for the schools of minorities, and, as far as possible, for the minorities in schools. The schools of minorities were protected in Clause 4; the minorities in the transferred schools were protected under Clause 3; but the minorities in the existing schools which would be side by side with the transferred schools, and which, in a few years, would cease to be distinguished from them, their separate origins being lost—the minorities in such schools in single school districts might be treated with the same regard as the minorities in the transferred schools, and without any greater administrative difficulty than was involved in the treatment proposed to be given to the transferred schools. In many parishes side by side in Wales, and as the right rev. Prelate of Hereford had shown, in the Marches of Wales, where the population was of exactly the same character, there were in some, board schools and in others not, the accidental action of the resident landed proprietor in many cases having caused the difference. In Cornwall the same thing occurred. The education demanded both by the majority and by the minority would be of exactly the same character in the different parishes, but they would be arbitrarily distinguished under the Bill as it stood. The exact words to be inserted might possibly require more consideration, but he thought the idea itself embodied in the Amendment might be fairly adopted as something which would satisfy many excited feelings in the rural districts, and as a recognition of the principle of just treatment all round which had been contended for, and which he, personally, gladly admitted ought to be conceded.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY thanked noble Lords for their interesting and conciliatory speeches, and re-echoed their wish for the considerate treatment of minorities. Whatever the majority in a school might be, whether Cowper-Temple or Church, he held that the minority ought to be treated with great consideration, and he believed it would be found when they reached Clause 4 that noble Lords on that side would be anxious to treat with the utmost consideration in their power, limited only by what was feasible and practicable, the rights of Nonconformist minorities in denominational schools. His object in rising, however, was to intimate that those for whom he spoke would be willing to support the Amendment before the Committee, though he intended to move a slight addition to it. They would do so with the more confidence because it was clear that they had the sympathy, not only of such authorities as Lord Stanley of Alderley and Lord Courtney, but also of the Minister for Education himself. In October, 1903, Mr. Birrell, before he joined the Government—but, of course, that would make no difference—published in the *Independent Review* an article in which he discussed the possibility of arriving at some settlement of the education difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the great obstacle presented by the existing prejudices — how on the one side there was the desire to maintain the Cowper-Temple clause, and on the other a desire to have specific denominational teaching—which was precisely to point the Committee had been discussing—and said that such an arrangement would be possible if all the schools were placed under local control and if facilities were granted. He then went on to say—

> "There still remains the question as to the nature of the religion to be taught in all the schools. Here the parents really must, whether they like it or not, conquer their shyness and make their first appearance in this ancient and horrid controversy, and tell us, when they send Tom and Jane to school, whether they wish them to receive any, and, if any, what religious instruction."

The Committee should note particularly the next words—

> "There is no chance of the multiplication of strange parental religions. We are not an imaginative people. Jews, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Dissenters in a lump, will usually exhaust the list. The great body of Dissenters will be found ready to accept the same broad simple Bible teaching which for the most part characterises board school Christianity."

It was perfectly clear that Mr. Birrell contemplated only four distinct varieties—Jews, Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Dissenters—and even those four would not present themselves in every case; so that it was evidently the view of the right hon. Gentleman that the solution dd not present any real difficulty. Within the last few days he had received from a clergyman who had taken a great part in education in New South Wales, and who was under the impression that Lord Heneage's Amendment to Clause 1 was in the direction of facilities, a letter in these terms—

> "The principle of this Amendment obtains in New South Wales, one of the most democratic and undenominational communities in the world. For twenty odd years, week in, week out, I have taught in the State schools there, and most of the time I have been on the Church Council which controls Church teaching in those schools. My own experience as a teacher, and as one of those who control such teaching, is that there had never been the slightest difficulty in working a proposal like Lord Heneage's. Its vagueness is its strength. At present the headmaster in the school in my parish is a Roman Catholic, and the second master is a Wesleyan; they both give excellent general religious teaching themselves, and they support my giving denominational teaching."

That was an absolute confirmation of the forecast of the Minister for Education in the *Independent Review*, that these facilities in working would present no difficulties whatever. The present Amendment sought to apply the principle only in a particular and special case, namely, where a child had no alternative but to go to a particular school. All who supported Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Amendment and many who did not would support the present proposal, which dealt with the case of a child who was compelled to go to one school, and one school only, where if the religious teaching was not satisfactory to the parent the child had either to be withdrawn altogether from religious instruction or have instruction of which the parent did not approve. It was the single school area difficulty, and he frankly admitted that they on that side of the House had always felt that that from their point of view was the most difficult part of the education question with which they had to deal. Nothing could be more eminently fair than the right rev. Prelate's proposal, but it imposed a limitation by which its operation would be confined to rural districts. He did not think that the right rev. Prelate could really sustain the distinction between rural and urban, and therefore he (the Marquess of Salisbury) would move slightly to modify the Amendment by striking out the words "parish in a rural area" for the purpose of inserting the word "district," with a consequential Amendment substituting the word "district" for the word "parish" later on in the Amendment. The effect of the change would be, not to enlarge the Amendment beyond the single school areas, not to extend it beyond the cases where a child had no alternative, but so far to enlarge the Amendment that it would apply to urban as well as rural districts.

Amendment moved to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words "parish in a rural area," and insert the word "district."—(*The Marquess of Salisbury*).

*LORD BELHAVEN AND STENTON pointed out that there might be cases in which there were two schools of a similar kind—two church schools or two council schools—and the child would have no alternative but to go to one of those, and in neither case would the instruction be of the kind desired by its parents; he suggested, therefore, that instead of the words "one public elementary school" there should be substituted the words "schools of a single class."

THE EARL OF CREWE: I am sorry to have to suggest a further slight complication with regard to the wording of this Amendment, but the words "provided for the children of the parish" would probably not meet what is intended by the right rev. Prelate. If those words remain in the Amendment, somebody would have to find out whether the particular school was provided for the children of the parish, whereas what the right rev. Prelate means is that there is only one school for the children to attend. Without expressing any views as to the merits of the Amendment, I think the right rev. Prelate would be wise to omit those words.

This Amendment in its original form is no doubt free from many of the objections to which Lord Balfour of Burleigh's proposal was open. It is no doubt true that in a considerable number of cases a difficulty might arise, and as we think certainly would arise, in the possibility of several different kinds of religious teaching being required, whereas in the transferred schools only one kind of facilities would be demanded. In treating this proposal as the converse of the proposition in our Bill, Lord Courtney forgot that under the right rev. Prelate's Amendment there was nothing to prevent any number of different kinds of facilities being asked for. I quite admit that there is a good deal to be said for this Amendment, and if the right rev. Prelate were right in supposing that in all cases where it would be likely to apply it would be welcomed by the local authorities, criticism of it would, no doubt, be made much more difficult. But I am by no means convinced that that would be the case. The right rev. Prelate doubtless speaks with perfect knowledge of his own diocese, and he may know cases in which the matter could be arranged without friction. But, on the other hand, I was greatly impressed by what fell from the Duke of Devonshire, in his speech on the general question, that, having regard to the fact that the denominational character of a great number of schools is going to be preserved, it is a very serious step indeed to tamper with the Cowper-Temple clause, and I confess that all the arguments which have been used have only convinced me that such a step should only be taken, if taken at all, with the most anxious consideration and also with a knowledge of what the practical effect would be.

The right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Salisbury, in speaking of the facilities, used a phrase which rather surprised me. Talking about the difficulty of accommodation in the school, he said that there was the parish room or a room at the church. But as I read the Bill, these facilities are to be given by teachers in school hours, and I see a series of Amendments on the Paper, with very formidable names attached, names which I imagine command a majority of your Lordship's House, making attendance at the school building during those hours compulsory. Therefore, I shall watch with interest to see what line the right rev. Prelate takes when we come to Clause 7, if he is in favour of facilities teaching being given outside the school house.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY: I am quite in favour of it whenever it is desired by the local authority.

THE EARL OF CREWE: The Marquess of Salisbury approaches the question from a somewhat different point of view. He has proposed an Amendment to strike out the words which confine the right rev. Prelate's proposition to council schools in single school areas.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: In rural areas.

THE EARL OF CREWE: In practice, in rural areas.

THE MARQUESS OF SALSBURY: The only change I propose is in effect to include urban as well as rural; I do not propose to change the single school area.

THE EARL OF CREWE: If the noble Marquess can tell me what are single school areas in urban districts I shall be very much obliged to him, because I honestly confess that I do not understand what he means. If he simply means the technical difference between an urban area and a rural area there may possibly be areas of urban district councils in which this state of things obtains. I very much doubt it, but there may be. If, however, the noble Marquess means that he wishes this provision to apply to all parts of large towns in which children may not have convenient access to denominational schools, I think he is undertaking an absolutely impossible task. This single school question has nothing to do with areas; it simply depends upon the point of view of the child. Everybody knows, particularly in these days of motor omnibuses, that the existence of a single crossing may make a school inaccessible to a particular child, and that child, if it is surrounded by such crossings, is in a single school area. If the noble Marquess imagines that by some machinery or other he can apply this provision to children so situated, I think he is undertaking a task beyond his powers or anybody else's powers of draughtmanship.

Consequently, I am sorry we are not able to accept the Amendment of the right rev. Prelate. We have listened with care and respect to the arguments in its favour, and we will certainly give the subject our careful consideration. But we are greatly impressed by the practical difficulty of touching the question at all, and if the right rev. Prelate presses his Amendment, although we are not disposed to put the Committee to the trouble of a division, I am afraid that we must challenge the decision of the Committee if it should be in his favour. As regards the proposed addition of the noble Marquess we should certainly have to divide the Committee against it.

*VISCOUNT HALIFAX said there were two or three questions he would like to put to the noble Earl. Had the parent a right to have his child instructed in the religion in which he believed or had he not? Personally, he would have thought that liberty required that he should enjoy that right, but that right was exactly what the Bill refused, and so far as it went, the object of the Amendment was to secure that right. In the county council provided schools dealt with by this Amendment undenominational religion was being taught. If the parents demanded a right of entry to have their children taught the religion in which they themselves believed, not only was the right denied to them, but in what had been denominational schools undenominational religion was being forced upon them against their will. How could the noble Earl reconcile that kind of dealing with the ordinary principles of liberty and justice? That was all the advocates of this Amendment asked for, and unless it could be shown that it was consistent with liberty and justice to force a parent to send his child to a school to be taught a religion in which he did not believe, he did not see how the Government could refuse to accept the Amendment.

Then there was another question. From beginning to end in this discussion it had been laid down by Nonconformist organs that it was unjust to make a person pay for a religious teaching of which he did not approve. Nonconformists one and all had again and again affirmed that the State had nothing to do with religion, and their objection to the Acts of 1902 and 1870 and to some of the provisions of the present Bill was that the State was interfering in religious matters. The Bill took one form of religious instruction, namely undenominationalism ; it imposed that on every school, and it made those who did not approve of it pay for it. Not only so, but it forbade the support from State money of any other form of religious teaching. It introduced undenominational teaching at the expense of the State, while it hampered, if it did not entirely forbid, any other form of religious teaching. He thought it was impossible to deny that statement. He quite agreed that this undenominational instruction was to all intents and purposes the religious instruction which Nonconformists desired. He was glad that they should have it, and he would help them to have it. But just as he was willing to help them to have what they wanted, on the same principle he asked that others should have what they wanted. Undenominational teaching was a form of religious instruction which did not suit the Church of England or the Roman Catholics. It no doubt was very inconvenient from the Nonconformist's point of view that that kind of instruction did not suit Anglicans and Roman Catholics, but the fact remained, and the only argument which justified the system supported by the present Bill would equally justify a Church of England majority in imposing the Church of England Catechism on all schools, or a Roman Catholic majority in imposing their own teaching in a similar manner. The Bill violated the most fundamental principles of religious liberty. It violated every principle for which Nonconformists had fought in the past. There was only one principle upon which the religious question could be solved, viz., an impartial attitude towards all religious opinions and denominations alike, which was exactly what this Bill did not set up. There might have been good reasons why Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Amendment should not be pressed at this stage of the Bill, though there were many schools in which children of Church of England parents were obliged to go to council schools, and it was extremely unjust that in those cases they should not be able to get such religious teaching as they required. When the Committee reached Clauses 4 and 5, he hoped their Lordships would amend them in such a way as to secure denominational teaching for those who wished to have it, and also to preserve the atmosphere of the school; but if the religious question was to be solved to the satisfaction of the whole country it could be only by holding the balance even between those who wished for denominational teaching and those who desired undenominational teaching. No one wished more devoutly than he did to get rid of the religious difficulty. He desired to see education made efficient, but he also wished real justice to be afforded in the matter of religious education, and unless their Lordships utilised the present Bill to do real justice and give equal treatment as between undenominational and denominational teaching, and much more if they forced upon the country a Bill which all those who cared for denominational teaching felt was doing them a most grievous injustice, they would be not promoting peace, but inaugurating a time of religious war of which we should not see the end for many a year. They would be doing in England exactly what had occurred in Holland, where there had been a most bitter warfare exactly on these lines, with the result that in the end the State had had to do justice to the denominational schools, and that was what, if justice were not done on the present occasion, Parliament would sooner or later be compelled to do.

THE EARL OF CREWE: As the noble Viscount made a direct appeal to me I am obliged to answer him without delay. He asks me whether in our opinion parents have a right to have their children taught the religion in which they themselves believe. My reply is a very simple one. If it is a question of withdrawing children from religious instruction which their parents do not wish them to have, my answer is "yes." If it is a question of providing that instruction for them, my answer is "no."

* **VISCOUNT HALIFAX**: May I remind the noble Earl that in regard to these Amendments it has not been a question of providing, but of allowing the parents to provide for themselves?

* **LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY** desired to make an appeal to the right rev. Prelate and the noble Marquess. The Government could not at this moment accept the Amendment, but if it were put it would no doubt be carried by a large majority, and the noble Earl in charge of the Bill would simply record his dissent. Many Members on that side of the House were very anxious that something practical should come out of the discussion, and, in spite of the present disinclination of the Government to accept the Amendment on account of the difficulties involved, he thought something might be gained if the Amendment was withdrawn in order that the matter might be considered before the Report Stage. In logic doubtless the principle involved in the Amendment might be carried out so far as to cover the whole country, but everyone could see the difference between taking a small step to meet a grievance which was emphasised locally and applying the principle universally. If they had on the Paper carefully thought out words applying to rural districts, and if the proposal were supported largely, there would at any rate be a chance of getting something. If the clause were made permissive, it would overcome some of the objections and possibly abolish the hostility of the local authorities. In any case he felt that they had a chance of getting something if the matter were not pressed now and carried by a mere division with the dissent of the Government.

**LORD HENEAGE** hoped the noble Marquess on the front Opposition Bench would withdraw the Amendment to the Amendment. They ought not to forget

the side from which the Amendment had come, and if they could get it inserted in the Bill it would be of great advantage in single school areas.

* **THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH** said that coming from Wales, where out of 677 Church of England schools 553 were in rural areas, he thought he could make an appeal with some interest in the matter. The Marquess of Salisbury had quoted Mr. Birrell's opinion, and he could quote the not less influential testimony of the concordat to which the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Lloyd-George, gave his assent in 1903, one of the terms of which was that there should be facilities in both provided and non-provided schools. The difficulty which had been feared with regard to introducing these facilities in provided schools and the disturbances it would cause had most distinctly not been experienced in Wales, and if they had not been felt in Wales he failed to see why they should be in England.

* **THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE**: I hope the right rev. Prelate will adhere to his Amendment as it stands; and my noble friend behind me is quite ready to withdraw his proposed addition. The important question is not so much the precise language in which the Amendment is couched as the principle which underlies it, and upon that principle we on this side are entirely agreed. Indeed, the noble Earl, the Lord President of the Council, has quite frankly admitted the grievance with which we desire to deal but, like many others, when he arrives at the Cowper-Temple clause he shudders on the brink and feels unable to move any further. But we have not that feeling on this side of the Committee. What we desire is the recognition of the principle for which we have contended through these discussions. That principle is that when a substantial minority of the parents of the children are dissatisfied with the religious instruction given in one of these schools, and those children are unable to obtain the desired kind of religious instruction at another easily accessible school, the facilities suggested should be given. The right rev. Prelate's Amendment seems to

me to enforce that principle. If the question as between urban and rural areas should require further consideration it could be easily given to it hereafter. I hope the right rev. Prelate will take the sense of the Committee on what I conceive to be the principle underlying his Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD said the effect of the Amendment standing on the Paper in the name of Lord Balfour of Burleigh would extend the ordinary facilities from two days to five days in the week. He desired to make it quite clear that if the present Amendment were accepted the question whether the facilities should be for two days or for five would still be open for discussion.

LORD JOICEY said it was the principle contained in the Amendment which induced the Government to oppose it, and he could quite understand their hesitation. The principle was for the first time to admit, in regard to council schools, the right of entry on the part of those who wished to have denominational teaching. If that principle were admitted much difficulty would be caused in those localities where hitherto they had always objected to it. He fully recognised the necessity for, and had always been in favour of, religious teaching, but he believed that by proceeding in the manner now proposed they would do great harm to the cause of religious education which they all desired to promote. He had had some experience, being a considerable owner of voluntary schools, but he had never had any difficulty at all in regard to the religious question. If, however, they were to attempt to force denominational teaching upon those schools where Cowper-Temple teaching had been given they would probably arouse a very strong feeling against religious education altogether. He appealed to the Government not to accept the Amendment, because he was convinced that the damage it would do to the cause of religious education was greater than any advantage that could be derived.

On Question, the House was cleared for a division, but the Amendment on being put a second time was agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 8, to leave out the word 'that.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Hereford.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM, in moving to insert words securing that the religious instruction given should be for not less than a clear half-hour each morning, said it was lamentable that there should be any specific requirements made upon constituted authorities, but where they were made it was better that they should be such as would be effective. His own experience and the views of those whom he had consulted convinced him that if there was to be any effective religious instruction permanently given there must be sufficient time secured for the giving of that instruction, and there was a danger lest they should rest content with having in a nominal manner secured religious instruction, while at the same time they had left it possible so to scamp the time allotted to that instruction as to reduce it to something of no value at all. He feared that there was already a considerable body of opinion tending to show that religious instruction was in danger of being ousted, and his Amendment was simply to secure that where the giving of religious instruction was obligatory the allotting of adequate space to it should also be obligatory. His proposal that there should be a clear half-hour every day was based on the practice generally existing of marking the registers three-quarters of an hour after the opening of the school, and if it was provided that the space allotted should be not less than half an hour he thought they would secure what was necessary.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 11, after the word 'instruction,' to insert 'for not less than a clear half hour each morning.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Birmingham.*)

THE EARL OF CREWE: We have always stated our desire that the facilities offered under our Bill should be of a genuine and real character, and if the right rev. Prelate thinks that the insertion of these words would ensure that to a greater extent than is done by the Bill as it stands we have no objection to their insertion. That is to say, that on each of the two mornings on which facilities are granted they should last for not less than a clear half-hour.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN took it that the provision meant that the instruction should be given on week day mornings. The words in the Bill did not say week day mornings, and he wished it to be perfecly clear, so that it should not be open to any authority to say that Sunday morning was one of the mornings on which facilities were given.

THE EARL OF CREWE: The point put by the noble Viscount had not occurred to any of us, but I think on consideration he will see that it is exceedingly unlikely to happen. The whole matter is a question of arrangement between the two parties, and it is hardly conceivable that the managers of a denominational school would leave the point open.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY pointed out that neither Saturday nor Sunday could count, because the school was under the management of the local authority only during proper school time.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD, in the absence of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, moved to leave out, from the word "instruction" to the end of sub-section (1.) He said the effect of the Amendment would be that where facilities were allowed they should not be restricted to two mornings in the week. The restriction was a survival from a state of things which had been modified or abolished by this Bill. It might have been reasonable to limit facilities so long as they, of necessity, brought any strain on the working of the school or involved any expenditure on the part of the local education authority. But when the facilities involved no cost at all except to those who chose to avail themselves of them the reason for the limitation disappeared. Therefore, on the grounds of simplicity and consistency, and of getting rid of an irksome and unnecessary restriction, he urged the adoption of the Amendment. Moreover, there were many in the Church of England and among the Roman Catholics who would demur to the conception that religious instruction was capable of being divided into two parts, as though they could have religious instruction of one character on three days and of another character on two, and then regard the two parts put together as constituting such an organic and complete scheme as they believed to be embodied in the Christian faith. He begged to move.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 11, to leave out from the word 'instruction' to the end of sub-section (1).'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Oxford.*)

THE EARL OF CREWE: I hope the right rev. Prelate will not press this Amendment. It would obviously have the effect of turning a great number of these schools back into purely denominational schools, and on that ground it is impossible for us to accept it. What happens in a very large number of ordinarily conducted Church schools at the present time is that there are two days of distinctively Church teaching and three days of what is practically undenominational teaching, and it was on that practice that we largely founded our belief that the provision which we have made in Clause 3 would be acceptable to a great number of Churchmen. But if the right rev. Prelate and the Committee mean to turn these schools into something like "four-fifths" schools, they will really make such a breach in the Bill as to alter its whole character. Therefore, I hope the right rev. Prelate on consideration will be disposed not to press the Amendment. We have frankly admitted that we do not desire these schools to be distinctly denominational, and if they were to remain so there would be no object in including them in the Bill at all. Therefore it is utterly impossible for us to accept the Amendment.

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH, who had a similar Amendment on the Paper, pointed out that there were a large number of small schools which would come under this arrangement but were not included at present under Clause 4, and in these schools as a result of the restriction the religious instruction would be given on two days in the week, but on the other days the greater part of the children would be taken away altogether, because there would be a very small minority and in some cases none at all to whom Cowper-Temple teaching would be given. Therefore, if those schools were not included in Clause 4 the effect of the provision would be to restrict all religious education in those schools to two days in the week. On that ground he hoped the Amendment now before the Committee would be supported.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. DAVIDS said there was a general impression that the concluding portion of this clause when first introduced did not confine the facilities to two mornings in the week as it now stood in the Bill. He directed special attention to the words—

> "The mornings fixed by the local education authority shall be the same mornings in the week for all those children."

He thought the introduction of those words in the other House was very unfortunate and restricted materially the very slight value which the ordinary facilities would, in any case, have. The Minister for Education had admitted that if it could be shown that there was any incongruity between the teaching on the three days in the week and the special teaching on the two days, there would be a serious grievance. There were many varieties of Cowper-Temple teaching. Some were good, some very good; some were bad, some very bad. Therefore, on the argument of the Minisster for Education there would be a serious grievance if there was no protection against the introduction into transferred voluntary schools now belonging to the Church of that very bad type of Cowper-Temple teaching. He therefore hoped that the Committee would support the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CREWE: I think the right rev. Prelate has misunderstood the meaning of the last line of the clause as it stands in the Bill. When the Bill was first introduced it was undoubtedly the case that two mornings a week would be set aside for this special religious instruction, and that it would not be given at all on the other three days. But it was pointed out in another place that it might not be possible for all the children to receive it on those two days, that there might be such a large number of children desirous of receiving this special instruction that it would be exceedingly difficult to take them all on two fixed days of the week. Therefore my right hon. friend introduced these words so as to secure that each child should receive instruction on two days if it was found that the limitation to two particular days caused such inconvenience. Then the right rev. Prelate expresses a fear that Cowper-Temple teaching of the bad kind, as he calls it, might be given on the other three days. I must call his attention to sub-section (5) of Clause 2 where he will see that one of the conditions which owners of schools to be transferred are able to make is that the authorities shall give an undertaking to give religious instruction which does not conflict with Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870. I am sure it will ease the right rev. Prelate's mind to know that that section makes it possible for a transferring body of owners to insist upon a particular kind of Cowper-Temple instruction being given; that is to say, they can present a syllabus to the local authority and make its acceptance for the three days teaching part of their bargain.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD asked whether, at a later stage of the Bill, the Government would introduce words into sub-section (5) of Clause 2 to make the assurance which the noble Earl had just given quite clear.

THE EARL OF CREWE: It is quite clear now.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY was much surprised that the noble Earl should say it was quite clear, because all that the sub-section said was that the owners might bargain that the local education authority should give Cowper-Temple teaching. There was no provision that the owners might bargain for a particular kind of Cowper-Temple teaching.

LORD FITZMAURICE : A syllabus.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said there was no mention of a syllabus. The sub-section simply provided that the owners might bargain with the local authority to have Cowper-Temple teaching of some sort. No doubt the noble Earl meant that it was the intention of the Government that it should be able to bargain for a syllabus.

THE EARL OF CREWE : I maintain that it is carried out.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY said it was very unfortunate that in these debates they were denied the assistance of the legal adviser of His Majesty's Government. One would have expected to see the Lord Chancellor present to give his views on these very difficult legal points, but doubtless the noble and learned Lord was absent for very good reasons. In his absence he ventured to suggest that the words did not go so far as the noble Earl had said, and he asked whether, if on inquiry he found that was the case, he would take care at a future stage to have words inserted to carry out that view.

The point with which the Committee had been dealing was the difficulty which arose from the fact that, if only two days were set apart for special religious instruction, there might be given on the other three days religious instruction inconsistent, with that which had been given on the other two. But there was also to be considered the fact that those who bargained with the local education authority were not free to arrange the classes and the times so as to suit the various children requiring the special instruction. The noble Earl had stated that the latter words of the clause were introduced to meet that difficulty, and that under these circumstances it would be perfectly possible, where schools were very large, for the two days to be so allotted that one class might be taken on one day and another class on another. No doubt that was the intention of the noble Earl, but if he looked at the words of the Clause he would see that the exception was—

> "Unless the authority on account of the accommodation in the school or the number of classes in the school consider that the instruction cannot be efficiently given on the same mornings to all the children whose parents wish them to receive it."

He submitted that accommodation and number of classes were not the only conditions which should be considered. The number of teachers available was another important fact. Under the Bill, so far as they had gone, none of the regular teachers were permitted to give religious instruction under Clause 3; some of them hoped that that would be altered, but at present the only teachers available would have to be introduced from outside. There might be very few of such teachers available. In most rural parishes there was nobody available for the work except the clergyman, and very often, if he might say so with great respect to the bench of Bishops, the clergyman was not at all fit to give that instruction, because the giving of instruction was a difficult matter, requiring very special training. Therefore, in schools of considerable size, even though there might be sufficient accommodation for all the children to receive the instruction on the same two days, and the number of classes might not present any great difficulty, yet the absence of teachers might present an insuperable obstacle. If the noble Earl wanted to make the clause really effective, he would have to introduce other conditions. The truth was that the limiting words were a mistake. The clause would have been much better if it had been left elastic and free in the form originally introduced, and the Government would do well to revert to their first mind in the matter.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he understood the noble Earl to say that under sub-section (5) of Clause 2, facilities could be required in the sense of being demanded and obtained. But sub-section (5) did nothing of the sort. What it said was—

> "Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities."

It did not say they were to be given; it merely said that nothing was to prevent their being granted. One could require a thing but not get it; to ask was not the same thing as to receive, and that was all that sub-section (5) provided. Several times in the course of the discussion the right to bargain for a thing had been treated as being the same as getting it, but it was an entirely different matter.

THE EARL OF CREWE: I think it is right that I should begin by explaining to the noble Marquess that the Lord Chancellor is, unfortunately, debarred from being present because the doctor forbids his leaving the house.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I am sorry I noticed his absence. I beg his pardon.

THE EARL OF CREWE: To us on this side of the House it is a matter of the deepest regret that we should lose the benefit of his advice, and I am certain that noble Lords opposite are also sorry for his absence. In answer to the question of Earl Camperdown, it certainly was our opinion that the words at the end of sub-section (5) made it possible for a local authority to bargain in this respect with the transferring authority, and in spite of the view of the noble Marquess, we maintain that from a legal point of view the words were sufficient. That is simply a matter of legal opinion, and we were so advised by those competent to judge. But when I gave the answer to the noble Marquess I had not considered the fact that by the action of the Committee the transfer is made compulsory, and it is very possible that that fact may prevent its making a bargain in this respect. Therefore my expression was subject to the fact of a bargain being possible at all between the two parties. As regards the latter part of sub-section (1) of Clause 3, we will certainly take into full consideration the point which has been raised, but I am not at all holding out hopes that we should be able to add to the accommodation and the number of classes as conditions in reference to the granting of facilities on more than two days. The suggestion that the number of teachers available should be taken into account would introduce very marked complication and great difficulty.

*VISCOUNT HALIFAX said it seemed to have been forgotten that under the present Bill some 12,000 Church schools with the addition of the Roman Catholic schools were to be handed over to the county councils. If the owners of those schools refused to make the transfer the schools would practically be starved out of existence, while if they agreed to the transfer the owners were to acquiesce except on two days in the week in the giving of religious instruction of the very sort which those schools were built to prevent. The Amendment made a very moderate demand. How could the Government refuse to the minority—if it was a minority—to whom the schools originally belonged facilities on every day of the week for their own religious teaching?

LORD ASHBOURNE thought the drafting was possibly open to question. The clause said: "not more than two mornings a week." That would be satisfied by having no morning at all or only one. He suggested it would be safer and wiser to put in the words, "not less than two mornings" or "two mornings and no more."

THE EARL OF CREWE: We will consider the point.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said there had been two or three important questions raised in the debate. In the case of a rural Roman Catholic school the children in which were practically all Roman Catholics, under the Bill the owners would get the right to use the school for religious teaching on two mornings in the week. But all the children would doubtless be told to take advantage of the conscience clause and refuse to accept religious teaching other than Catholic on the other three days of the week. It would then be in the power of Catholic parents under Lord Londonderry's form of by-law to send their children to school only at the time when secular instruction began, and they could take advantage of the parish room or other premises outside the school for the purpose of having the children instructed in accordance with Roman Catholic principles. Therefore, they would suffer little material inconvenience. As to the five days proposal, the right rev. Prelate's argument seemed to proceed on the assumption that because a school had hitherto been a denominational school the children were mainly those desiring that particular kind of denominational education. But one of the grievances which had led to this Bill had been the fact that the character of the school had not depended on the wishes of the locality, but on the fact that a squire had chosen to establish a Church school. In the county in Wales with which he was connected he knew of one school with a Church foundation where not one of the children attending the school was a member of the Church of England. The schoolmaster and the managers were Church of England but every child was a Nonconformist. The object of this Bill was to secure that whatever definite teaching was reserved to the denomination on two days, there should be an opportunity for giving general Bible teaching on the other three. If all the five days were reserved to the denomination, those people who happened to live in a parish where the school was denominational would be the victims of the endowment of some ancient squire, and that was one of the evils the Bill was intended to prevent. His recollection was that it was contemplated that the two days would be definite days, and that as a concession to the denominational party, it was agreed that where, owing to the size of the school and the large number of scholars, all the children could not be taken at the same time, permission should be given to spread the facilities over more than two days. It was very possible that the general Bible teaching might conflict with the distinctively Anglican teaching, especially in a school which wanted teaching of a somewhat narrow view on sacraments and baptism; and the friends of definite teaching would not be protected by any syllabus, because such syllabus would only indicate the subjects and not the spirit and temper in which they should be taught. Therefore one could not ensure that the general Bible teaching would be in harmony with the teaching of a particular clergyman and they must take the risk. It was not at all evident, on the face of it, that the construction put by the Government upon the subsection which had been referred to was the right one, and he very much doubted whether the House of Commons appreciated it. The concession was a very serious one, and he supposed it had been made to enable managers of Church schools to feel sure that even if a local authority should become secular in the future, whatever their general policy might be, in these transferred schools at any rate, there should be some religious instruction given on every day of the week, and that that instruction would be in accordance with the Cowper-Temple clause. But if it was to be contended that there was to be an undertaking so long as the transfer held good to give Cowper-Temple teaching according to a particular syllabus, that the managers might say, "We will take all that part of our present diocesan syllabus which has to do with Bible teaching as distinct from Prayer Book and Catechism, and require that to be taught in the schools," it would be an intolerable burden, and he could not imagine any self-respecting great county authority taking over a school on those terms. It would be absolutely contrary to the whole spirit of legislation to allow a local authority elected for three years to bind its successors for all time and deprive the electors of their power over the syllabus.

*The LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM said that to a great number of persons on whose behalf he spoke this was a matter of vital principle. If a school which had been a Church school was to be transferred—a school in which there were a majority of children whose parents were not Church people, then in the name of everything sacred those children ought to receive not the instruction which Church parents would desire, but the instruction which their own parents wished according to the particular religious denomination to which they belonged. But it was quite as vital a matter that the Church people should not in any way be expected to admit that religious teaching could be split up into denominational and undenominational in the manner suggested, and that they ought to be content with that subdivision. It was not merely a matter of the particular subjects on the particular days; it was a matter of authority and spirit of the teaching. Supposing they had religious teaching given by the schoolmaster on the undenominational days, and by the representative of the Church (or of some other religious body) on the days set apart for denominational teaching, it was possible that they might work in harmony, but on the other hand it was possible they might not. What they claimed was there should not be imposed by the State on children whose parents did not wish it, a particular kind of religious teaching instead of that which they did wish. Moreover it was much easier that the children should receive religious instruction in the same groups every day of the week than that they should be differently grouped for the purpose on two mornings and on three mornings a week.

On Question, whether the words proposed to be left out should stand part of the clause, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 49; Not-Contents, 141.

## CONTENTS.

York, L. Abp.

Crewe, E. (*L. President.*)
Ripon, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*
Winchester, M.

Beauchamp, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Chichester, E.
Craven, E.
Durham, E.
Granville, E.
Russell, E.
Temple, E.

Althorp, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)

Chester, L. Bp.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.

Aberdare, L.
Burghclere, L.
Castletown, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Courtney, of Penwith, L.
Denman, L. [*Teller.*]
Eversley, L.
Fitzmaurice, L.
Glantawe, L.
Granard, L. (*E. Granard.*) [*Teller.*]
Grimthorpe, L.
Hamilton, of Dalzell. L.
Haversham, L.

Headley, L.
Hemphill, L.
Heneage, L.
Joicey, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Monk Bretton, L.
Monkswell, L.
Monson, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Overtoun, L.
Reay, L.
Rendel, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Sandhurst, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.

## NOT-CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)
Grafton, D.
Newcastle, D.
Portland, D.
Richmond and Gordon, D.
Somerset, D.
Wellington, D.

Ailesbury, M.
Bath, M.
Camden, M.
Hertford, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Salisbury, M.

Albemarle, E.
Ashburnham, E.
Carnwath, E.
Cawdor, E.
Clarendon, E.
Darnley, E.
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Feversham, E.

Gainsborough, E.
Halsbury, E.
Ilchester, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Lathom, E.
Lindsey, E.
Lucan, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
Plymouth, E.
Powis, E.
Radnor, E.
Rosse, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Stamford, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Westmorland, E.
Wharncliffe, E.
Wicklow, E.
Winchelsea and Nottingham, E.
Yarborough, E.

Bridport, V.
Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Falmouth, V.
Goschen, V.
Halifax, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Iveagh, V.
Llandaff, V.
St. Aldwyn, V.

Bangor, L. Bp.
Bath and Wells, L. Bp.
Birmingham, L. Bp.
Bristol, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Norwich, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. Bp.
Exeter, L. Bp.
St. David's, L. Bp.
Salisbury, L. Bp.
Southwark, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.

Abinger, L.
Addington, L.
Alverstone, L.
Ampthill, L.
Atkinson, L.
Barnard, L.
Bateman, L.
Blythswood, L.
Braye, L.
Burton, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Cheylesmore, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)
De Freyne, L.
De Mauley, L.
Deramore, L.
Digby, L.
Douglas, L. (*E. Home.*)
Dunleath, L.
Estcourt, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Fingall, L. (*E. Fingall.*)
Forester, L.
Gage, L. (*V. Gage.*)
Grey, de Ruthyn, L.
Harris, L.
Kenlis, L. (*M. Headfort.*)
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenyon, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore*)
Knaresborough, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Lovat, L.
Methuen, L.
Montagu, of Beaulieu, L.
Mostyn, L.
Mowbray, L.
Newton, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Ormonde, L. (*M. Ormonde.*)
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Ramsay, L. (*E. Dalhousie.*)
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurly.*)
Saltoun, L.
Sanderson, L.
Sandys, L.
Seaton, L.
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Southampton, L.
Stalbridge, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L. (*E. Galloway.*)
Trevor, L.
Vivian, L.
Waleran, L.
Willoughby De Broke, L.
Zouche, of Haryngworth, L.

House resumed, and to be again in Committee on Monday next.

## QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

On the Motion "That this House do now adjourn,"

LORD NEWTON said: My Lords, on this Motion I desire to call attention to a matter affecting the privileges of this House. It appears that four Members of the House have been sitting and voting during the present session without having previously taken the oath. I learn from Sir Erskine May's work on the laws and usages of Parliament that a Peer voting or sitting in the House of Peers without having taken the oath is subject for every such offence to a penalty of £500. I further learn that one of these noble Lords is Lord Grimthorpe, the latest acquisition to the Ministerial ranks, who, with the proverbial zeal of a convert, has accumulated a total penalty of no less than £8,500. As a matter of strict fact and legality, I believe I am entitled to claim a portion of that money in the character of a common informer, but I need hardly assure the House that I am not actuated by sordid motives, but am inspired solely by a lofty regard for the privileges of this House. I therefore beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether, in spite of an undertaking that no contentious legislation was to be introduced during this portion of this session, they are prepared to bring in a Bill of Indemnity in order to relieve these misguided persons from the consequences of their neglect?

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, Bills of Indemnity were formerly necessary in cases of this kind, which unfortunately do sometimes happen, but I understand that they are no longer necessary, because in the year 1882, in the Bradlaugh case, it was decided by this House that no one could be sued for a penalty without the *fiat* of the Attorney-General. Therefore, no common informer will have a chance of getting any of this money. I am sorry for my noble friend opposite, but it can only be done by the Attorney-General under the direction of the Crown. I have had only an hour's notice of the noble Lord's intention to raise the question, but I think I may take it upon myself to say that His Majesty's Government will not instruct the Attorney-General to extract £8,000 from my noble friend. But something does require to be done, and therefore I give notice that I shall on Monday move, "That, notice having been taken that the following Lords, Lord Manners, Lord Clements (Earl of Leitrim), Lord Grimthorpe and Lord Armstrong, voted in certain divisions during the present session without having previously taken the oath, it be ordered that the entry in the Journals be amended by striking out the names of the said Lords from the lists of the divisions in which they voted before taking the oath."

**THE EARL OF HALSBURY**: I am bound to say that the noble Marquess is creating a precedent which I think requires some consideration. What the noble Marquess said is quite true as to the effect of the decision in Bradlaugh's case, and since that time the same facts have occurred more than once, but it has always been considered necessary to bring in a Bill of Indemnity. Such an occurrence has never yet been passed over without that being done. That is a point which requires to be considered, and I hope the noble Marquess will not finally determine the question till he has considered it.

**THE MARQUESS OF RIPON**: I have only stated what I have been advised in the matter, and I cannot say anything further. But when my Motion comes on on Monday I hope the noble and learned Earl will favour us with his opinion in the matter.

**LORD GRIMTHORPE**: As one of the misguided persons singled out by my noble friend opposite, I think it my duty to rise and offer an apology to the House for inadvertently having violated its rules. I can only offer an excuse similar to that made by Dr. Johnson on a celebrated occasion, "Ignorance, sheer ignorance." I had an impression that while House of Commons may come and House of Commons may go, the House of Lords went on for ever, and that, having once taken the oath, it was not necessary to repeat the ceremony. If I may say so, the rule is a little ambiguous in that respect. I do not mean to say that I studied the rule very carefully, but it distinctly states that—

> "On the opening of a new Parliament those present shall take the oath."

It does not say anything about those absent. I was not one of those present at the opening. As it happened, I did not show the zeal of the convert which has been attributed to me by my noble friend, inasmuch as I did not appear until June last year, by which time things had settled down and there were none of those signs and tokens in your Lordships' House so numerous in the House of Commons that forcibly remind one that an old Parliament has given place to a new. Under these circumstances I hope your Lordships will pardon the inadvertence of which I have been guilty; I can only apologise sincerely, and throw myself on your indulgence.

House adjourned at half-past Eleven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

---

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Thursday, 1st November*, 1906

The House met at quarter before Three of the Clock.

## *PETITIONS.*

### EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Leintwardine, and Little Hereford, to lie upon the Table.

### EXPLOSIVES IN COAL MINES.

Petition of C. E. Parker-Rhodes, for inquiry; to lie upon the Table.

### LABOUR TEST WORKERS (ENFRANCHISEMENT).

Petition from Whitehaven, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

### SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Wolverhampton, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Bere, Alston, and Calstock Light Railways Orders, 1900 and 1903, and for other purposes (Bere, Alston, and Calstock Light Railway (Extension of Time, etc.) Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Carnarvon (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of the Portmadoc, Beddgelert and South Snowdon Railway Company) and the transfer to that Company of the powers conferred upon the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways Company by the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railways (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1900, and other matters (Portmadoc, Beddgelert, and South Snowdon Railway (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension) Order, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the county of Cardigan, from Lampeter to Aberayron and to New Quay (Lampeter, Aberayron, and New Quay Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the West Riding of the county of York, from Clayton West to Darton (Clayton West and Darton Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the rural district of Bath, in the county of Somerset, from Weston to Lansdown (Bath and Lansdown Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the rural district of Keynsham, in the county of Somerset (being an extension of the existing and authorised undertaking of Bath Electric Tramways, Limited) (Bath Electric Tramways (Light Railway Extensions) Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the parishes of Kettle and Falkland, in the county of Fife, from Falkland Road Station to Falkland (Falkland Light Railway Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the urban district of Tottenham in the county of Middlesex (Tottenham Walthamstow Light Railways Order, 1906) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th September, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports during the year ended 31st December, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the table.

### PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Public Records (Prisons). Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Prison of the Marshalsea of the Court of King's or Queen's Bench, the "Queen's Prison," the Fleet Prison, and the Prison of the Marshalsea of His Majesty's Household and Palace Court, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

### STREET BETTING (CONVICTIONS).

Address for "Return showing the number of Convictions for Street Betting during the years 1903, 1904, and 1905 in the Metropolitan Police District, and in each of the boroughs of Birmingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Blackpool, York, Bradford, and Manchester, with the number of cases in which the persons convicted were apprehended without warrant, and also, as regards the boroughs of Blackpool, York, Bradford, and Manchester, the number of cases in which a fine exceeding £5, or imprisonment without option of fine, was imposed for a second or subsequent offence."—(*Mr. H. H. Marks.*)

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### H.M.S. "Philomel."

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when the last refit of H.M S. "Philomel" was completed and at what cost; on what date the order was given for her to be put on the ineffective list and dismantled; on what date she was towed round this year to Haulbowline to be refitted; whether the work was commenced; whether the work has now been suspended; and whether the Admiralty are satisfied that all these steps were calculated to increase efficiency.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The last refit of H.M.S. "Philomel" was completed at Haulbowline in 1904, at a total cost of £23,924. The ship was ordered to be placed in the E Division of Reserve on 7th December of the same year. She was towed round to Haulbowline to be refitted 31st August, 1906; the work has been begun and is still in progress. With regard to the last part of the Question, as the result of the "Philomel" being placed on the list of "Ships of comparatively small fighting value" the cost of her upkeep in commission has been saved, and it is not considered that the action taken has been contrary to efficiency.

### American Passengers and Dublin Mail Trains.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that passengers from America arriving at night at Queenstown are caused delay and expense owing to the refusal of the Great Southern and Western Railway to carry them by the train bearing the mails to Dublin; and whether, seeing that tourists and others on going out to America *via* Queenstown are taken to that port by the train bearing the mails, he will see if it is possible to remove the difficulty complained of by those coming in.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, passengers are already conveyed by most of the special American mail trains from Queenstown to Dublin. Some difficulty appears to have recently arisen in consequence of the railway company now running fewer special trains than formerly for passengers in connection with the homeward American packets. I am, however, making further inquiry as to the position of the Post Office in the matter, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

### Post Office Medical Officers—Retirement Regulations.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has decided to apply an age limit of sixty to the tenure of Post Office medical appointments; and, if so, whether he has considered the hardship involved in enforcing the new rule at short notice on existing holders of these appointments who have hitherto had reason to suppose that their appointment would continue as long as they were able to discharge their duties efficiently.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: To ask the Postmaster-General why the medical officer of the Redditch Post Office has been called upon to retire; whether any complaint has been received from the staff under his care as to his discharge of his duties; and, if not, whether, having regard to the hardship involved in applying a new age rule suddenly to existing holders of appointments supposed to be for life or during good behaviour, he will reconsider his decision in the case of this officer.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It will be convenient to answer these Questions together. It seems expedient to review annually the efficiency of medical officers over sixty years of age, retaining those only who are found to be thoroughly efficient, and retaining none in any circumstances over seventy years of age. Of those over sixty, fourteen have been found to be inefficient, and to these notice has been given; and I am sure that the right hon. Gentleman would not advise their retention in so important a post. The medical officer to the Post Office at Redditch is over sixty years of age. I regret to say that, after full consideration of all the circumstances affecting him, I have felt bound to decide against retaining his services.

### Employment of Ex-soldiers.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will grant a Return, showing the percentage of ex-soldiers employed in the Royal Ordnance Factories, the postal and customs services, borough and county police forces, railway and tramway services, prisons and asylums, and by municipal corporations and county authorities generally.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A Return, which is included in the Report of the Committee on the Civil Employment of ex-Soldiers and Sailors [Cd. 2991], issued 2nd July, 1906, shows that the number of employees in the Ordnance Factories was then 15,829, of whom, 1861 were ex-soldiers and 245 ex-sailors. As regards the other channels for employment of ex-soldiers and sailors, I would refer the hon. Member to the other Departments of State concerned.

### Case of Lance-Corporal Gray.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the case of Lance-Corporal Gray, a sufferer from paralysis, contracted while in active service in India, who has been discharged as incurable from Netley Hospital; and if, seeing that the best years of the life of Lance-Corporal Gray have been spent out of Ireland and in the service of the Army, he can see his way to make such arrangements for the support of this disabled soldier as will prevent him becoming a charge upon the ratepayers of the union of Fermoy, where he was born.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The origin of the disability for which Lance-Corporal Gray was invalided from the Army cannot be attributed to his military service, and it is therefore not possible to award him any pension from Army funds. Every endeavour, however, has been made to get this non-commissioned officer transferred to a home, but without success, and, as he had no home of his own to go to, the usual procedure was followed, viz., to transfer him to the care of the guardians of the union where he had a settlement. If Lance-Corporal Gray had been retained longer in Netley Hospital, it would have been at the expense of other cases which might benefit by treatment in that institution.

### Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he knows that a new association, called the Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association, has been formed in Manchester for the sole purpose of assisting men who fought for their country at the battles of Alma, Balaclava, Inkermann, Sebastopol, Delhi, Lucknow, etc.; that it is appealing for the sum of £1,600 to assist these old men; what were the amounts contributed by the public to the Royal Patriotic Fund after the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny; how much of those funds still remain; and whether some of this money could not be appropriated to the use of the Manchester association.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I have no knowledge of the particular association referred to, but I am aware that similar associations exist in some large towns. The money subscribed by the public to the Royal Patriotic Fund was solely for the benefit of the widows, children, and dependent relatives of officers and men of the naval and military forces of the Crown. It cannot be applied to the relief of ex-soldiers. The total subscribed was £1,500,000, and a balance of about £85,000 still remains. About £440,000 was subscribed to the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund, but no money is available for fresh grants from this source. I may add that the administration of these funds is not in the hands of my Department, but necessitous survivors of the Crimean and Mutiny campaigns are eligible for small Army pensions, varying according to their age and necessities.

### Customs Examining Officers.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the second class examining officers of Customs to whom temporary personal allowances of £7 10s. and £15 per annum respectively were granted as compensation for retardation of promotion due to departmental reorganisations had to serve from thirteen to sixteen years before obtaining the position, while officers are at present promoted in the ordinary course at less than six years, and every officer on completion of eight years' service will receive the salary of second class examining officer if not promoted at that time; and that a difference of eight years' deferred promotion to the seniors represents a loss of £60 per annum for a lengthened period against which only £7 10s. or £15 per annum has been granted for a short period, with the result that, in the event of neither officer obtaining any further advancement in the service, the officer at present promoted will be eight years longer in receipt of the maximum salary, and will receive upwards of £1,000 more than the senior; and, if so, whether the Board of Customs and the Treasury will reconsider the case of those officers whose promotion was delayed through circumstances over which they had no control, with a view to giving a personal allowance until the maximum salary is reached; as a partial compensation for the loss they have sustained.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The service as outdoor officer of the second class examining officers to whom temporary allowances have been or will be granted as compensation for retardation of promotion is as follows:—Under thirteen years, 236 officers; between thirteen and sixteen years (the period stated in the Question), 230 officers; over sixteen years, 73 officers. It is true that officers (assistants of Customs) are now being promoted to the grade of second class examining officer after less than six years' service in the Department, and that, if not so promoted after eight years' service, they will be allowed the salary of that grade. But the older officers to whom the compensation allowances have been granted entered the department as outdoor officers, and as such were required to perform a certain amount of inferior work which has now been handed over to the unestablished class known as watchers. Hence the entrance examination of the outdoor officer was much simpler, and the scale of salary lower, than in the case of assistants, and no proper comparison can be made between the periods served before promotion, or the amounts of salary received, by those who entered as outdoor officers and those who entered as assistants. With reference to the concluding part of the Question, the claims of the second class examining officers (formerly outdoor officers) are considered to have been reasonably met, as I explained in the Answer to the Question by my hon. friend the Member for the North Division of West Ham on 18th July last.†

### Coal Export Records.

MR. CAIRNS (Newcastle-on-Tyne): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the tax upon exported coal ceases on the 1st November, he will cause to be continued the system of records made during recent years at the various Custom Houses so that information may still be obtainable as to the various descriptions of coals exported.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) It has been decided to continue the system, established during recent years, of recording the various descriptions of coal exported. Information on the subject will be available as hitherto.

### Prison Discipline.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a recent exhibition of mutinous conduct amongst the convicts confined in His Majesty's prison at Maidstone; whether it is part of the policy of the directors of prisons to confine such prisoners within the narrow limits of ordinary prisons; and whether he would consider the advisability of employing such prisoners on the public works prisons, as heretofore.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) There has been no change of policy of late years. For many years convicts, except those employed in quarrying and farm labour, have been kept within the prison enclosure; formerly at Chattenden, Wormwood Scrubs, and Dover, and now at all convict establishments, and employed in building operations and other trades. Maidstone is not an "ordinary" local prison, but advantage has been taken of the large and favourable site (not required by the local prison) to build a new prison for the detention of prisoners sentenced to penal servitude, who are employed in the work of construction—a healthy outdoor labour, similar to that performed by convicts at Portland and Dartmoor. It is proposed to send only selected cases to Maidstone for this purpose—100 to 200 in number. The rest will go, as usual, to the so-called public works prisons, but at these prisons about 60 per cent. are employed inside the prison enclosure at various trades and industries. Most of the convicts who recently showed an insubordinate spirit at Maidstone had recently been transferred from Borstal, and no other cause can be assigned for the outbreak than dislike of the change, as their labour at Borstal had been comparatively easy, while at Maidstone they had to be employed on work of a more arduous kind.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxi., 164, 165.

### Burwell Estate, Cambridgeshire.

Viscount TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what were the opportunities afforded to the thirty-nine agricultural labourers lately employed by the Crown on the Burwell Estate, in Cambridgeshire (and since dismissed), to acquire small holdings from the present tenants; on what terms they were offered small holdings; and on what terms the same holdings have since been let.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Crown farm at Burwell has been let by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to my hon. friend the Member for Newmarket, and they are not officially concerned with the arrangements he has made to divide it into small holdings. But I am authorised by him to say that every one of the labourers formerly employed on the farm was personally offered a portion of the land at a rent sufficient to cover the rent my hon. friend is paying, together with interest and sinking fund on all outlay, and a sufficient margin for expenses of management. It is on these terms that the land has now been sublet by him to fifty-nine small holders.

### Blacklion Postal Arrangements.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that Mrs. Brachen, of the Hill, Blacklion, whose house is situate less than 200 yards from the post office in the village of Blacklion, county Cavan, only gets delivery of letters at her house on two days in the week; is this in accordance with the rules as to delivery of letters at Blacklion; and, if so, will he take steps to have the rules altered so as to secure a daily delivery of letters at places not unreasonably remote from the post office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a Report on this subject, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member in due course.

### Telegraph Press Rates to India.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Postmaster-General, having regard to the fact that the Press rate on telegrams to India is much in excess of the rate to Australia, and that a large population in India are greatly interested in the dissemination of news from this country, will he consider the expediency of communicating with the cable companies concerned, with a view to secure a reduction in the charges on telegrams to India.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The hon. Member must, I fear, have been misinformed. The Press rate on telegrams to India is the same as that to Australia. In regard to the question of a reduction of the rate, I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer given yesterday by the Secretary of State for India to the Question of the hon. Member for Hythe.†

### Keighley Post Office.

Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): To ask the Postmaster General if he will cause an inquiry to be made into the conditions of the service of the staff of the Keighley post office, inasmuch as some of the clerks say that the duties of the office are unequally distributed and that the night attendances are excessive.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will cause inquiry to be made into the indoor duties of the staff at the Keighley office and will inform the hon. Member of the result.

---

† See Col. 1097.

### H.M.S. "Montagu."

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can say what steps are being taken to replace H.M.S. "Montagu."

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The hon. Member's Question bears upon the Estimates for the next financial year, and it would therefore be premature to make any statement until those Estimates are presented to the House.

### Income-Tax.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he is aware that the public have to render returns for income-tax purposes to the surveyors of taxes in whose offices they are dealt with by a clerical staff who are not civil servants; whether he will consider the expediency in the public interest of arranging that such confidential returns should not be dealt with by unestablished clerks or officials, and that duties of so much delicacy and importance should not be discharged by unestablished clerks, while such positions as those of postmen, messengers, and sorters are filled by established officials; will he have the matter considered by a Committee of the House; and will he say if the surveyors of taxes have themselves condemned the present system or made representations suggesting the desirability of a change.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The employment of established clerks has been tried, but was abandoned as being unsatisfactory both as regards cost and efficiency. The Surveyors of Taxes have instructions to retain in their own hands all really confidential work. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by the suggested inquiry by a Parliamentary Committee; the main questions involved are questions of departmental administration which primarily concern the Board of Inland Revenue and the Treasury, and they have been carefully examined and considered by the Board and by the Treasury on more than one occasion in recent years.

### British Indian Mission to South-Eastern Persia.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table the copy of Mr. Newcomen's Report of the British Indian Commercial Mission to South-Eastern Persia.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) A notice was issued by the Government of India in May last stating that applications for copies should be addressed to the Upper India Chamber of Commerce. The Report not being a Government publication, it is not proposed to lay it on the Table.

### Chowkidari Tax in Bengal.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that the chowkidari tax, which is levied for the remuneration of village watchmen, presses heavily on the agriculturists of Bengal, will he consider the expediency of communicating with the Government of India with a view to secure its remission.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Police Commission have pointed out certain defects in the present regulations for the assessment of the local tax in question, and have made recommendations with the object of preventing it from pressing too heavily on the poor. These recommendations are, I understand, engaging the attention of the Bengal Government, but I can hold out no hope that the tax will be entirely remitted.

### Freemount National Schools.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education have yet taken any steps towards effecting the necessary repairs of the National Schools, Freemount, county Cork; are they aware that the present dilapidated and insanitary condition of the building endangers the health of the scholars and gravely affects the average attendance; and, in view of the undertaking that there would be no delay in effecting the repairs, given last May, whether the Commissioners can explain why the necessary work has not yet been commenced.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they have sanctioned a grant of

£456 towards the cost of rebuilding the Freemount schoolhouse. As, however, the existing lease under which the premises are held has but a few years to run, the Commissioners consider it necessary that a new lease should be obtained before so large an expenditure of public money is incurred. Instructions for the preparation of a new lease have accordingly been issued, and when this has been signed the necessary steps will at once be taken. The Commissioners are aware that the temporary buildings in which school work has been conducted are unsuitable, and that the average attendance has, as a result, been appreciably smaller.

### Captain Caldbeck's Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what progress has been made in the negotiations for the purchase by the Estates Commissioners of the estate of Captain Caldbeck, Ballocolla, Queen's County, 250 acres of which is untenanted; can he state what price Captain Caldbeck has asked; and whether the Commissioners have made an offer, and, if so, what sum.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the vendor in this case consented in June last to sell his estate to them under Section 6 of the Act of 1903. The Commissioners have since had the estate inspected with a view to purchase, and their inspector's report was received at the end of September. Important queries upon the report have since delayed the consideration of the matter, but the report is now ready for the Commissioners' consideration, and they hope shortly to deal with the matter.

### Aghanville Estate, King's County.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to Aghanville Ranch, near Geashill, King's County, which has been untenanted for the past twenty-five years, and is since the beginning of the present year in the occupation of Mr. James Dunne, Kilbride, Portarlington, and stated to have been purchased by him, whether he can say what price Mr. Dunne has asked for the portion of the estate which he proposes to sell to the Estates Commissioners for the enlargement of small holdings in the locality, and what value the inspector has placed upon the same; and whether an offer has been made Mr. Dunne by the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are at present in negotiation with Mr. James Dunne for the purchase of about 100 acres of the land in question, and have communicated to him their inspector's estimated price. The Commissioners, however, do not consider it desirable that they should disclose particulars of prices which they may be asked or may offer in such cases.

### Forts on the Surrey Hills—Disposal of Sites.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the actual cost of construction and equipment of each of the forts on the Surrey hills, and how the amounts compare with the original estimates; and whether, if the forts are to be abandoned as useless for military purposes, in view of the fact that the neighbourhood is rapidly developing for building, it will be possible to retain the sites, and any adjoining land now in possession of the Government, as national property instead of selling the same.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The annexed statement gives the approximate figures for land and works in connection with the mobilisation centres round London. They were built by degrees out of three different sources of funds, and it is not practicable without prolonged research to trace the original estimates. But as there are no reports of excesses, the actual expenditure must have been approximately that of the estimates. As regards the question of the retention of the sites, I would refer my hon. friend to the Answer given by me on Monday last to the hon. Member for West Bristol. †

---

† See Col. 671.

Statement of Expenditure on London Defences.

| Station. | Vote 10. | | Imperial Defence Loan. | | Military Works Loan. | | Total. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Land. | Works. | Land. | Works. | Land. | Works. | Land. | Works. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| *Henley Grove* | 436 | 6 | — | — | — | 6,740 | 436 | 6,746 |
| *Denbies* | 1,062 | 55 | — | — | 21 | 9,794 | 1,083 | 9,849 |
| *Merstham* | 957 | 249 | — | — | — | 5,113 | 957 | 5,362 |
| Farningham | 2,686 | 29 | — | — | — | 8,174 | 2,686 | 8,203 |
| *Pewley Hill* | 3,493 | 10,435 | — | — | — | 26 | 3,493 | 10,461 |
| *Box Hill* | 2,221 | 495 | — | — | 100 | 5,768 | 2,321 | 6,263 |
| Westerham | 1,626 | 106 | — | — | — | 8,924 | 1,626 | 9,030 |
| *Betchworth* | 1,364 | 55 | — | — | — | 5,194 | 1,364 | 5,249 |
| *Reigate Hill* | 3,031 | 1,114 | — | — | 332 | 10,225 | 3,363 | 11,339 |
| *Fosterdown* | 2,078 | 693 | — | — | — | 6,094 | 2,078 | 6,787 |
| *Oxted (Woldingham)* | 2,408 | 86 | — | — | — | 5,063 | 2,408 | 5,149 |
| Halstead | 2,731 | 10,733 | — | — | 198 | 11,621 | 2,929 | 22,354 |
| North Weald | 1,457 | 10,728 | — | — | — | 1,680 | 1,457 | 12,408 |
| Caterham | 111 | 54 | 2,266 | 6,287 | — | — | 2,377 | 6,341 |
| Warley | — | — | — | 4,220 | — | 38 | — | 4,258 |
| Tilbury | — | — | — | 2,275 | — | 19 | — | 2,294 |
| Grand totals | 25,661 | 34,838 | 2,266 | 12,782 | 651 | 84,473 | 28,578 | 132,093 |
| | £60,499 | | £15,048 | | £85,124 | | £160,671 | |

Sites in italics are in Surrey.

### American Tinned Meat.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is his intention to publish Colonel Hobb's Report on the Chicago Meat Yards; and, if not, can he state generally if the Report is unsatisfactory or otherwise; what is roughly the quantity of American tinned meat in stock for the British Army and its cost; and whether His Majesty's Government will send an officer to report on Australian tinned or preserved meats, with a view to supplying the British Army from this source.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) It is not intended to publish this Report, which is now under the consideration of various Government Departments. No statement can be made regarding it until a final decision has been arrived at. About 3,250,000 pounds of American tinned meat is held at present by the Army, and its cost is about £80,000. There is no present intention of sending an officer to report on Australian tinned meat.

## *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.*

### Naval Manœuvres.

Mr. BEAUCHAMP (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the number of merchant vessels, other than those chartered, which placed themselves at the disposal of the Admiralty during the recent manœuvres; whether all or any of them sailed under convoy; whether any were captured; and, if so, how many.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee): I am not in a position at present to make any statement on this subject.

### Criticisms of Naval Designs.

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty still adhere to the refusal to follow the precedent set when Sir William White was authorised to read a paper on the new designs of ships at the Society of Naval Architects; and whether, seeing that the speed of the new ships has considerably increased the cost of the ships, the Admiralty will facilitate discussion and criticism by publishing details of the six alternative designs from which the selection of the "Dreadnought" and "Invincible" was made.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer is in the affirmative to the first part of the Question, and in the negative to the second part.

### Newfoundland Naval Reserve.

Mr. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to embark the naval reserve of Newfoundland for a cruise this year; or whether this customary practice has been abandoned in consequence of the scarcity of available ships brought about by the naval reductions of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative, and to the second in the negative.

### Naval Repairs.

Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether there is any unusual accumulation of repairs to battleships and cruisers required at the present time; and whether any unusual delay is being experienced in getting such repairs effected.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer to both parts of the Question is in the negative; and it may be stated that the expenditure already incurred on repairs during the current financial year is in excess of that contemplated when the present Estimates were framed.

### H.M.S. "Montagu."

Mr. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty upon what date and to whom H.M.S. "Montagu" was sold and for what amount; and, if so, whether any and how many of the guns, giving particulars of their displacement, were comprised in the purchase.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The ship has not been sold.

### The Fleet.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is intended to reduce the number of officers and men serving in His Majesty's fleet.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The hon. Member's Question bears upon the Estimates for the next financial year, and it would therefore be premature to make any statement until those Estimates are presented to the House.

MR. PIKE PEASE: Have the Government any intention of abandoning the two Power standard? Will the hon. Gentleman say that.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I cannot make any such statement.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): Are we to understand that there is to be no reduction before next year?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No; the hon. Gentleman is to understand that any questions relating to next year's Estimates are to be postponed until they are presented *en bloc*.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR: Is it intended to reduce the number of officers and men serving in His Majesty's fleet?

[No Answer was returned.]

### Dockyard Wages.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, whether the £60,000 advance in wages has been distributed in accordance with promise made by him in August last; and whether he is in a position to state what trades or grades of workmen will receive an advance in wages, and the amount they will receive.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I have nothing to add to my reply to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member for Portsmouth on the 29th October, when I stated that full particulars would be published in about ten days time.†

### War Office Land at Fairlight.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the War Office has recently agreed to sell a plot of land in the neighbourhood of Fairlight, Sussex, to a brewery company for the purpose of erecting a public-house; whether a similar agreement was previously made with the same company with respect to an adjoining plot of land; whether, on this previous occasion, the magistrates refused to grant a licence owing to the local feeling against the erection of a public-house in that place; and whether, having regard to the fact that this local feeling still exists, the War Office will withdraw their offer to sell the plot of land in question.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): It is the case that a plot of War Department land near Fairlight which is no longer required for military purposes, has recently been acquired by a brewery company. The relations between the company and the War Department in this matter have been merely those of buyer and seller. Nothing is known at the War Office of any similar agreement to sell, or of a refusal of the magistrates to grant a licence. The Department is unaware of any general opposition to the erection of a public-house at this place, but this would appear to be entirely a matter for the licensing authorities. The War Department is not in a position to withdraw from the terms of sale arranged.

### Bexhill Sea Wall.

MR. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will state the reasons for the repeated refusals of the War Office to allow the Corporation of Bexhill to erect a sea wall in front of the War Office property at that place; whether he is aware that the consequent interruption of the sea wall is not only a source of inconvenience and a disfigurement in the very centre of the Bexhill sea front, but an actual source of danger owing to the erosive action of the sea; and whether he will reconsider his decision in this matter.

MR. HALDANE: I have been in communication with the hon. Member on this subject. The War Department offered the corporation a lease of the land for fourteen years subject to three months notice, but this was declined on the ground that the corporation was not willing to give the rent suggested. If the corporation care to purchase the land, the War Department are willing to consider an offer for it. It is obvious that the War Department could not consent to allow its land to be used in the manner proposed by the corporation as its selling price would be prejudicially affected.

---

† See Col. 684.

### Netley Hospital Nurses.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will explain why nurses at Netley Hospital, and in the Army's service generally, are not permitted when off duty, except when on furlough, to take part in public or private dances, seeing that the prohibition does not apply to medical men in the same hospitals; whether a highly trained professional class, such as nurses, are to be placed in a different position on the ground of sex to officers in the Army, who, provided they are on duty at the appointed time have no restrictions placed on their use of time when off duty; and whether he will at once free the nurses from this interference with their liberty.

MR. HALDANE: I have consulted the Nursing Board which contains among its members many ladies of great experience in these matters, and they have advised me to the following effect:—The Nursing Board requires for Her Majesty's Nursing Service gentlewomen who are devoted first and foremost to their work for its own sake and the sake of their patients, and who will, therefore, desire to live quietly and unostentatiously without looking for much gaiety. Occasional attendance at operas, theatres, concerts, and other places of amusement is not incompatible with the due performance of their duties, and is allowed at discretion of the matron; but the late hours involved by attendance at balls and dances, in the opinion of the Board, incapacitates them from giving proper attention to their patients on the following day.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by "these matters"?

MR. HALDANE: I refer to the arrangements which have been made for the performance of the duties of the nurses. I may say that in this case the weight of authority of these experienced matrons and highly trained ladies has prevailed over my natural instinct.

### Essex Fisheries.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office has yet come to a decision on the proposal that fishermen in the district of Shoebury, Southend, and Leigh should be permitted to get cockles and to fish generally over the whole of the foreshore in that district vested in the War Office; and whether any regulations to that end are under consideration.

MR. HALDANE: The War Department has purchased the fishery in question, and the issue of regulations in regard to it is now under consideration.

### Bridging the Ganges.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state what reply was made to the offer of the Bengal and North-Western Railway to build a bridge over the Ganges at Godagiri at their own expense.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): No reply has yet been given to the offer of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company to build a bridge over the Ganges at Godagiri, as I am awaiting a Report from the Government of India on the subject.

### The Partition of Bengal.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether in view of the promise made by Mr. Brodrick in August, 1905, that Papers on the partition of Bengal would be laid before the House, and of the fact that the partition was effected in the autumn recess immediately following, before Papers could be laid, and in view of the fact that the House has never been afforded the opportunity of discussing the subject, and that the partition has given rise to discontent in India, he will appoint a Select Committee of the House to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances connected with the partition of the province.

MR. MORLEY : I stated on Monday last that it would be contrary to the public interest to present Papers on the subject of the agitation against the recent partition of Bengal ;† and I am still less prepared to take any action of the kind suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) : Arising out of that Answer, may I ask whether we are to understand that this House exercises no control whatever over Indian affairs ?

MR. MORLEY : No ; I do not think that is at all the inference to be drawn from my Answer.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) : Does the right hon. Gentleman think it is possible for the House to give proper attention in regard to this subject if it is not supplied with the actual facts ?

MR. MORLEY : No. I should think no deliberative body could exercise deliberative functions usefully unless acquainted with the actual facts ?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) : That is why we want Home Rule.

*DR. RUTHERFORD : Were not the papers laid after Parliament rose ?

MR. MORLEY : I am not sure.

MR. MORLEY : The facts in relation to the partition of Bengal were, as I have stated, laid before Parliament on some date in August last year.

MR. J. WARD : Will not the right hon. Gentleman take into consideration that this is an entirely new Parliament, that at least two-thirds, I should think, of the Members know nothing of these Papers, and does he not under the circumstances consider it advisable that the Papers should be re-issued ?

MR. MORLEY : So far as I am concerned there is no objection at all to the re issue of the Papers. But they will not throw any light upon the real point. The real point is this : when the present Government came into office they found that the partition of Bengal had been carried out. It then became a question, in our view, largely of political expediency, whether that transaction should be reversed, or whether it should be upheld. The question was whether the disadvantages of setting aside all the operations which had followed did not far more than counterbalance the errors, as we thought them, of the original change. It was, therefore, a question largely of political expediency, and, of course, Ministers took the view I have announced on their own responsibility. In what they have done they may have taken a wrong view, but to appoint a Select Committee to consider the question of the presentation of Papers, such as my hon. friend desires, would really not help the House one atom to a sound conclusion in the matter.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND : May I ask whether it is not a well ascertained fact that public opinion in Bengal is dead against the partition, and whether, in view of that being the case, an alteration cannot be made in accordance with Liberal principles, and having regard to the views of the people ?

*MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. That Question hardly arises out of the one before the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND : Then I will put one on the Paper.

### Tibet.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is now in a position to lay Papers relating to Tibet upon the Table of the House ?

MR. MORLEY : There are at present no Papers relating to Thibet which could be presented consistently with the public interest. The agreement with China as to the Lhasa Convention has been already published.

---

† See Col. 689.

### Christian Schools in British African Protectorates.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in British Central Africa or any other British Protectorate in Africa, any law, or rule, having the force of law, restricts the erection of Christian schools to villages in which the chief and one-fifth of the population consent to such erection?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): There is, so far as the Secretary of State is aware, no law, or rule having the force of law, in any British Protectorate in Africa which restricts the erection of Christian schools, except in the British Central Africa Protectorate, where, as a consequence of disturbances in the earlier days of the Protectorate, a notice was issued by the Commissioner to the effect that a missionary must obtain the assent of the chief and of the majority of the people to the building of a church, chapel or school, in villages which have been created—as nearly all have been created—native reserves.

### Chiromo Game Reserve.

MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any decision has been arrived at regarding the question of reducing the area or altering the boundaries of the game reserve at Chiromo in view of further reports received from British Central Africa concerning the difficulty of using the road from Katungas to Chiromo, owing to the loss of human life and of cattle by lions, and the further loss of life by lions in Chiromo, and the consequent interruption to business enterprises in that locality?

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received a detailed report from the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate which shows that the area of the game reserve near Chiromo has been reduced, and is now very much smaller than it originally was. It is considered that the present limits of the reserve should be maintained, and the Secretary of State has decided not to direct any further reductions at present. The reserve is intended only for the remnant of the buffalo in that Protectorate, and in no way to protect lions or other carnivora, which can be shot at any time by any one. The road from Chiromo to Katungas does not pass through the reserve, but quite clear of it on the east side; the railway passes far to the east of it. There has been no loss of life or cattle through lions on the road or in the neighbourhood of Chiromo which can be traced to the existence of the game reserve.

### British Indians in South Africa.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under an Act recently passed by the Natal Legislature, His Majesty's Indian subjects resident in Natal, many of whom are large ratepayers, will be deprived of the municipal franchise; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to sanction this Act.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): At the same time, may I ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to a petition of the Natal Indian Congress lately received, complaining that British Indians resident in Natal are deprived by the Corporations Consolidation Bill, recently passed, of the municipal franchise which they have hitherto enjoyed; and whether, seeing that besides indentured labourers there is in the Colony a free population of some 15,000 Indians, chiefly belonging to the mercantile class, and many of them highly educated, he will say what action, if any, His Majesty's Government proposes to take to prevent this act of disfranchisement.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Bill excludes for the future from the municipal franchise persons who are disqualified for the Parliamentary franchise unless they are exempted as provided in the Act No. 8 of 1896, but saves the rights of those persons already on the burgess rolls and otherwise qualified. The Petition from the Natal Indian Congress has been received, and it and the Bill are still under consideration.

### British West African Produce Company, Limited.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of

State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the fact that the prospectus of the British West Africa Produce Company, Limited, after referring to concessions covering an area of more than 4,000 square miles, states that with a view to a sufficient supply of native labour the chiefs have under the said concessions undertaken to sow, plant, and cultivate; and whether steps will be taken to insure that these arrangements do not involve forced labour on the part of the natives. I beg also to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the prospectus of the British West Africa Produce Company, Limited; whether that company holds from paramount chiefs concessions covering an area of upwards of 4,000 square miles in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone for ninety-nine years from 1901; whether the chairman of that company was Governor of Sierra Leone from 1894 to 1900; whether he can say what is the nature of these concessions, and whether they are such as to give the company the monopoly of rubber production in that area; and whether these concessions have been approved by the Governor of Sierra Leone or the Colonial Office.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): At the same time may I ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the notice of the Colonial Office has been drawn to the statements made in the prospectus filed by the British West Africa Produce Company, Limited, dated 10th October, 1906, under the name of the chairman, Sir Frederic Cardew, described as Governor of Sierra Leone from 1894 to 1900, and other directors, regarding twenty concessions of agricultural and trading rights relating to territories covering an area of upwards of 4,000 square miles in the Protectorate of Sierra Leone; whether he can state how many paramount chiefs granted these concessions; whether they are valid without the sanction of the Government of Sierra Leone; whether these chiefs have become individually responsible to the limited company for the supply of native labourers; and whether they may lawfully force natives to co-operation in labour by virtue of these documents.

MR. CHURCHILL: The attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been directed to the prospectus of the British West Africa Produce Company, Limited. The concessions in question were not granted or approved by the Government, but the Colonial Office was aware from correspondence with Mr. Brunner that they had been obtained. Sir F. Cardew, who is named as chairman of the company, was Governor of Sierra Leone from 1894 to 1900. The concessions appear to be of the character of agreements with chiefs to the effect that they will cultivate and will sell only to the concessionaires certain agricultural products, not being products already cultivated in their territories, the seeds of which are to be supplied to them by the concessionaires. It is not stated that they give the concessionaires any monopoly or exclusive rights of cultivation or of rubber production in those areas. The concessions appear to be of a kind which does not, under the law of the Protectorate, require the approval of the Governor of Sierra Leone or the Secretary of State for the Colonies. With regard to the supply of native labour, I may say that the chiefs can only act in accordance with their recognised authority under native law and custom, which does not enable them to requisition labour except for certain established public purposes and to an extent, strictly limited by the consent of their people, upon the chiefs' own farms. These concessions in no way enlarge or affect the powers of the chiefs in regard to such labour. Any chief abusing his powers and oppressing his subjects by illegal forced labour is liable to removal from his office by the Governor, whose duty it will be to take care that no such abuse occurs.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): May I ask whether in order to put a stop to objectionable transactions of this kind, the hon. Gentleman will consider the advisability, when any man is appointed to a governorship of a colony, of imposing a condition on retirement from the governorship that he shall not undertake transactions of this kind or exploit the resources of his colony on the Stock Exchange.

MR. CHURCHILL: As to whether these transactions are objectionable or not, I am not led to a conclusion by any information put at the disposal of the Colonial Office. If the hon. Member has any information which can prove that these proposals are objectionable in their character, perhaps he will give me the opportunity of showing it to the Secretary of State. As to the general question of persons employed in the public service being controlled after leaving the public service, I must have notice of the Question before I can say whether any general rule can be laid down.

SIR. J. JARDINE: Can the hon. Gentleman explain what individual responsibility to the company these chiefs have undertaken?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have explained that the chiefs are to sell to the company the agricultural products of certain seeds which are to be given to them by the company. That appears to me to be an operation which is not in itself improper or objectionable, and I think we should hinder the development of Nigeria if we excluded private enterprise when it does not conflict with the already strict regulations which the Government have laid down.

SIR J. JARDINE: But in what way are they responsible?

MR. CHURCHILL: The chiefs are responsible in the same way in which every person is responsible for a contract into which he enters.

### Coolie Labour Return.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies which of the Colonies have not yet replied to the request of the Colonial Office to be furnished with the necessary information to enable the Return as to Coolie Labour to be presented to the House in accordance with the Order of February last; and what steps have been taken by the Colonial Office to expedite the furnishing of the required particulars.

MR. CHURCHILL: Since 29th October further information has been received, and the only reply now required is that from the State of Western Australia. All Governments which had not replied within a reasonable time to the despatch which was sent to them on the subject in March last were reminded by telegraph.

### The Transvaal and the Finance Act.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): On behalf of the hon. Member for the City of London, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies why the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance Act of 1894 have not been made applicable to the Transvaal.

MR. CHURCHILL: Section 20 of the Finance Act, 1894, cannot be applied to the Transvaal unless and until the law governing the levying of Estate Duty in that Colony has been modified. It was found impracticable to introduce the necessary legislation during the late session of the Legislative Council, and the question will, therefore, remain to be considered by the new Legislature.

### Trinidad.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the starvation due to unemployment existing at Trinidad; and, if so, what action the Government has taken, especially in relation to the demand for labour by the Isthmian Canal Commission and the importation of labourers from India to compete with the West Indian labourers.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not aware that there is any such distress as the hon. Member refers to, resulting from want of employment in Trinidad; but in view of the private communications I have received from the hon. Member an inquiry will be addressed to the Governor on the subject.

### Coolie Prisoners in the Transvaal.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a Return has been received by the Secretary of State from the Transvaal Government showing that on the 30th June last there were confined in the Transvaal prisons about seven times as many Chinese coolies as either Europeans or natives in proportion to the total numbers of the Chinese, Europeans, and natives, respectively, in the Colony; and, if so, whether any part of the extra cost incurred by this excess of Chinese crime has been borne by the mine-owners who imported the criminals, or whether it has all fallen upon the general taxpayers of the Colony.

MR. CHURCHILL: For the purposes of comparison it is necessary not to contrast the Chinese with the total white population or with the total native population, but with the adult males, and so considered, the European and native rates would appear to be about six per 1,000, or a third of the Chinese rate. The great majority of the offences of the Chinese are breaches of disciplinary regulations which are not in themselves criminal acts, but taking more serious crimes as being those represented by sentences of six months or more, the Chinese rate would appear for such serious crimes to be on about the same level as the European and native rate, the Chinese rate being 4·4 per 1,000. The Legislature of the Colony has not hitherto made any special arrangement for throwing the whole or a part of the cost of Chinese crime upon the mine-owners.

### Proposed West African Council.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the desirability of continuity of policy and administration in our West African Colonies, His Majesty's Government will take into consideration the advisability of appointing a West African Council principally composed of distinguished officials, retired or otherwise, to confer with the Colonial Office.

MR. CHURCHILL: The appointment of such a committee has been suggested from time to time; but the Secretary of State does not feel convinced that it is necessary. The joint West African Council of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Manchester, Liverpool, and London, which meets monthly at the Colonial Office affords convenient opportunities for the free discussion of commercial questions between the representatives of commercial interests, and those of the Colonial Office. I should deprecate in the present state of Nigerian development the creation of more elaborate or comprehensive machinery.

### Compulsory Labour in Southern Nigeria.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if the Southern Nigeria Proclamation, No. 15, 1903, is still in force; if, under its provisions, compulsory labour without payment can be demanded by district commissioners; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will insist that for the future fair payment will be made to the chiefs for all labour requisitioned from them.

MR. CHURCHILL: The proclamation referred to is still in force. Under its provisions compulsory labour without payment can be demanded by district commissioners. The obligation to give gratuitous labour for public purposes is one established and recognised throughout West Africa. The only possible substitute for it would be the imposition of rates payable in money, as in this country. The introduction of this change is not at present, in Lord Elgin's opinion, either practicable or expedient in West Africa.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Has the present Secretary for the Colonies given sanction to any such proclamation demanding forced unpaid labour as suggested in the Question, or were these proclamations issued before he came into office?

MR. CHURCHILL: They belong to an anterior date.

### Baghdad Railway Project.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any further action has been taken, such as he can communicate to the House, regarding British participation in the Baghdad Railway project; whether the Government has acquiesced in the raising of the Turkish Customs by 3 per cent.; and, if so, upon what conditions.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the negative. With regard to the Turkish Customs negotiations are still in progress, and until they are concluded I cannot say what the result will be. Certain conditions have been stated by all the Powers as necessary to their consent.

### Chinese Customs.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Chinese Government has cancelled or amended its edict introducing certain changes into the administration of the Chinese Customs.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The reply to the hon. Member's inquiry is in the negative. I would also refer him to my replies of the 25th and 26th ultimo relative to the edict of May 9th, to the effect that the edict has not hitherto changed the administration by Sir R. Hart.†

### Piracy in the Canton Delta.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any information has been received of the increase of piracy in the Canton Delta; and, if so, whether action is contemplated in order to the protection of commerce in these waters.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Reports of several cases of piracy and attempted piracy in the Canton Delta have lately been received by His Majesty's Government. His Majesty's Minister at Peking has been authorised to make representations to the Chinese Government, with a view to the adoption of measures for the suppression of these outrages, and to the better policing of the waterways.

### The New Hebrides.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if a Convention has been signed with France with reference to the New Hebrides; and, if so, whether he will lay such Convention upon the Table, with any correspondence between this Government and the Colonies of New Zealand, Queensland, and New South Wales upon the matter.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The text of the Convention will be laid at once, and correspondence with the Colonies concerned will be laid subsequently as soon as it is complete.

### Abyssinia.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the consent of the Emperor Menelik is still withheld to the agreement concluded between Great Britain, Italy, and France with reference to Abyssinia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The validity of the agreement between the three Powers is not dependent upon Menelik's consent. The agreement was communicated to Menelik with the object of showing him that his interests were not adversely affected by the arrangements which the three Powers had made between themselves.

MR. ASHLEY: Is it necessary to obtain his consent before the agreement comes into force.

SIR EDWARD GREY: No, Sir.

### Case of Jeremiah Power.

MR. THORNE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider the possibility of reducing the sentence on Jeremiah Power who was sentenced on the 23rd instant at the Old Bailey to six months imprisonment with hard labour for stealing some meat, in view of the circumstances under which the offence was committed, and the fact that the police admitted that there was no previous conviction against him.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have made inquiry into this case, but find no ground at present for advising interference with the sentence. The case was more serious than would appear from the newspaper report and the statements made by the prisoner in Court are not in accordance with fact. He had been convicted of theft before.

### Rats in Holloway Prison.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to a statement made by one of the women recently committed to Hollaway Prison in default that she was annoyed at night by rats running about her cell; whether he is in a position to state whether any sanitary authority has made an inspection into the sanitary condition and drainage of the prison; if not, will he say who is responsible for the sanitary condition of the building; whether the bye-laws and regulations made under The Public Health Act (London), 1891, are carried out; and when the last inspection into the sanitary condition of the prison was made.

---

† See Cols. 411, 412, 516, 517.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Inquiries have been made as to the alleged presence of rats in this prisoner's cell. The cell and the shaft whence the rats were alleged to issue, were at once examined by the engineer, and no sign of their presence could be detected. I am making further inquiries. The Courts have decided that the Public Health Acts do not apply to prisons as being the property of the Crown. The responsibility for the sanitary condition of the prison rests with the Commissioners of Prisons; and a regular and careful sanitary inspection of prisons is strictly carried out by the staff of the Commissioners. The last sanitary inspection of Holloway took place on the 14th September last.

DR. COOPER: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that two ladies of unimpeachable veracity—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Montefiore—both stated that they were annoyed at night by the presence of rats in their cells?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have already said that I am making further inquiries.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman take into consideration the advisability of purchasing an active cat?

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): Was not the statement actually made that the rats were in the infirmary, and not in the cells?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I will make inquiry.

### Local Prisons.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will state the number and names of local prisons in England which are at present used for other than the temporary detention of persons sentenced to penal servitude; and whether the officers of such prisons are paid on the same scale as those of the recognised convict prisons.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Convicts serve the preliminary period of separate confinement, which varies from three to nine months, at the following prisons—Chelmsford, Dorchester, Exeter, Gloucester, Lewes, Stafford. In addition to this, certain convicts selected for their good behaviour, who were sentenced in the north of England, serve their last year at Wakefield. Convicts in local prisons are in charge of the ordinary local prison staff, who are on a different scale of pay from the staff of convict prisons. These convicts being, except at Wakefield, in cellular confinement, and not employed in parties or gangs in the open, do not present the same difficulty of control as in the regular convict prisons, and the duty of supervising them does not differ from that of supervising ordinary local prisoners.

### Salisbury Railway Disaster.

MR. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade upon what rule or regulation, either of the railway company or of the Board of Trade, the inspector charged upon the guard in the Salisbury disaster the duty and responsibility for stopping the train when running at excessive speed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The rule applicable would appear to be number 177 (b) of the Railway Company's Rules and Regulations.

### Midland Goods Trains.

MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the action of the Midland Railway Company in placing untrained men in charge of goods trains without their having passed the usual examination; and whether, in view of the danger involved to the lives of the men employed, he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: No, Sir, I have no information to the effect suggested, but I am communicating the hon. Member's Question to the railway company mentioned and inviting their observations.

### The Imperial Institute.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what was the total amount contributed by the princes and people of India to the cost of building the Imperial Institute; what was the total cost of the building; and what proportion of that total cost is represented by the buildings now used by the University of London.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The total amount of the donations received from India for the foundation (building and endowment) of the Imperial Institute was £114,528. Of this sum a small portion was specifically given for additions to the building, the major proportion was paid into the general fund, and it is not possible to make any definite appointment as between building and endowment. The total amount of money expended in building the Institute, including plant, fittings and furniture, etc., was £354,753. The proportions of the whole building at present occupied respectively by the Imperial Institute and the London University may be roughly estimated at two-fifths and three-fifths.

### Vacant Railway and Canal Commissionership.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience to litigants caused by the delay in appointing to the vacant post of Railway and Canal Commissioner; and whether an appointment will be made during the present sittings of the Law Courts.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. In the only case in which it was represented to us that a speedy hearing appeared to be necessary I appointed a temporary Commissioner in accordance with the Act, and I should be prepared to take a similar course should the necessity arise before a permanent appointment is made. I hope, however, that a permanent appointment will be made shortly.

### District Railway Fares.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the increases in fares on the District Railway, which press heavily upon working-class families; and if he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter, and appoint a committee to make recommendations thereon.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes, Sir, I have had this matter under careful consideration. The question whether the workmen's fares now charged by the railway company are unduly high is one that can be dealt with under the Cheap Trains Act, 1883. I am informed by the London County Council that their Housing Committee is in correspondence with the railway company, and that failing a satisfactory settlement, the Council will be recommended to make a representation to the Board of Trade under the Act. Full investigation would then be made into all the circumstances either by the Board of Trade or by the Railway and Canal Commissioners.

### Trade Combines.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited, by combining the sewing cotton businesses of Messrs. Coats, of Paisley, Messrs. Clark & Company, Messrs. Jonas Brook & Brothers, and Messrs. James Chadwick & Brother, have secured a virtual monopoly of the sewing cotton trade of the United Kingdom; that foreign competition is non-existent in this trade; that it is practically impossible for new British competition to arise; that the cotton trust makes a regular profit of about £3,000,000 per annum on a capital of £10,000,000; and whether, under these circumstances, he can see his way to legislate to secure public control of a trade which affects every working woman in the country. I beg further to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that in the wall-paper manufacture, a trade little affected by foreign competition, a combination of makers has been formed under the title of Wall-paper Manufacturers, Limited, which absorbed the businesses carried on by C. and J. G. Potter, the Darwen Paper Staining Company, Potter & Company, Huntingdon Frères, the Anaglypta Company, Lightbown, Aspinall & Company, Allan, Cockshut & Company, the Lignomur Company, Carlisle and Clegg, Osborn and Shearman, John Trumble & Sons, Walker Carver & Company, Limited, W. G. Wilkins & Company, Limited, Mitchell, Arnott & Company, Limited, and twelve other makers; that this great amalgamation amounts to a virtual monopoly of the trade, and that it is subversive of the public interest; and whether he can see his way to take steps to secure public control of the monopoly.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Perhaps I may answer these two Questions together. There is no monopoly of the sewing cotton trade in this or any other country. There are over twenty independent makers of the article whose capital amounts to millions of pounds, including important limited companies and manufacturers who have been in existence for more than half a century, and between whom and Coats there is no connection. The position which Messrs. Coats have established for themselves in various markets for cotton sewing thread is well known. I have no official information as to their profits, or as to the extent to which the Wall-Paper Manufacturers, Limited, have established a virtual monopoly as suggested in the Question. I find, however, that imports of printed paperhangings amounted last year to £133,000 compared with only £34,000 in 1894, the last previous year for which these imports were separately recorded. As regards the last part of the Question I can add nothing to my reply given last Monday†.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if he has given consideration to the fact that the combination controlled by Messrs. Coats does, as a matter of fact, enjoy what I say is virtually a monopoly? I mean that it absorbs about nine-tenths of the trade. With regard to wall-paper, the amount imported is so insignificant that it has no bearing on the Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is making a debating speech.

## Inspection of Weights and Measures.

MR. BERTRAM (Hertfordshire, Hitchin): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has considered the expense which will be thrown upon the rates, particularly in agricultural and thinly populated counties, by the requirements of Regulation 1 of the regulations now under the consideration of the Board of Trade, which involve the annual visit of an inspector to the premises or place of trade of every trader, and the verification of all weights and measures in use for trade found at such premises or place; whether he has any official Reports showing that the present system of surprise visits does not afford a sufficient control of weights and measures; and, if not, on what ground the new and more stringent regulation is based; and whether the Board of Trade are advised that farmers are traders within the meaning of the Weights and Measures Acts.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: An annual visit to places where weights and measures are in use was already required by the model regulations drawn up by the Board of Trade under the Weights and Measures Act, 1889, and the present draft regulation under the Act of 1904 differs chiefly in empowering the Department to exempt districts where an annual visit would be inconvenient. The Question whether farmers are traders for the purposes of the Weights and Measures Acts can only be answered by a reference to the definition of 'trade' in Section 19 of the Act of 1878. As a general rule a farmer's dealings will no doubt come within that definition.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that, for instance, in a county like Hertfordshire this change will involve doubling the staff of inspectors, and add hundreds a year to the rates?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I think the right hon. Gentleman has been misinformed. The change will have a contrary tendency.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will let me show him the papers.

---

† See Col. 702.

### Grant for the Unemployed.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what portion of the grant to the unemployed will be allocated to the county of Lancashire.

Mr. HAROLD COX: Before the right hon. Gentleman allocates any of this money, will he take care to ensure that none of it will be used for pauperising purposes?

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): My views on this Question are sufficiently well-known not to require any further answer. It is not proposed to allocate any specified portion of the grant to particular counties. The object of the grant is to provide a means whereby the funds of the Central (Unemployed) Body in London, and of Distress Committees elsewhere, derived from voluntary contributions may be supplemented in cases where there may be exceptional need for assistance in the coming winter in meeting the cost of providing or contributing to the provision of temporary work. It appears to me that some of the Distress Committees in Lancashire will probably require such assistance, and in these cases I have informed them that I should be prepared, should they deem it necessary to apply for assistance from the grant, to give consideration to the application.

Mr. THORNE (West Ham, S.): Has any of the money been allocated to distress committees?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: Some of the money has already been allocated, and the process is still going on.

### Betting by Telegram.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has made, or will make, any computation showing the loss of revenue to the Post Office should it be enacted by the Street Betting Bill that it is illegal to transmit telegrams relating to betting transactions through the Post Office.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I have not made such a computation.

### Betting by Telephone.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what steps he proposes to take to prevent betting by telephone over the telephone systems controlled by the Post Office.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: It would not be possible to prevent the use of a telephone system for the purpose of betting, without instituting a general censorship by means of a staff employed in listening to all conversations, who would also have to decide what was and what was not a betting transaction. I am afraid I do not see my way to undertake such a responsibility.

### Private Letter-Boxes in Scottish Post Offices.

Sir J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the increase of the fee for the use of a private box in the post offices in Scotland, from one guinea to two guineas a year, has led to a decrease in the number hired, and a consequent loss of revenue, and to what amount, and what are the reasons for this increase of the fee; and whether he can see his way to revert to the smaller fee, and thus allay the dissatisfaction which has been caused.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The number of private boxes has somewhat decreased since the alteration of charges came into operation. Formerly the charge had not covered the extra cost incurred. Precise figures relating to the number of private boxes in Scotland before and after the change made in the scale of charges are not at present available.

### Re-direction of M.P.s' Telegrams.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware of the fact that telegrams sent to Members of Parliament at their own homes and having to be re-directed to the House, when Parliament is sitting and Members are in attendance, are charged for at an extra rate for such delivery; and whether he can see his way, under those circumstances, to have such telegrams delivered without any extra charge.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: All re-directed telegrams are liable, if any additional service is performed, to an additional charge of 6d. if the two addresses are within the same town and, if the addresses are in different towns, to the full inland rate. Each London postal district is considered a separate town for this purpose. I have no power to discriminate in favour of Members of Parliament.

### Wakefield School Attendance Prosecution.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education, if his attention has been called to the prosecution, on 8th October, at the Wakefield Police Court, of Alfred Whiteley, for not sending his two children regularly to school, and to the statement of the attendance officer that the managers of the Cathedral School had in the past allowed certain children to attend free as an act of grace; whether, in view of the difficulty existing in the city, of parents being able to get their children into convenient schools without paying fees, owing to the determination of the managers of such schools to keep them select by charging fees, he will cause inquiries to be made into the state of affairs in the matter of charging fees; and, further, if he will consider the question of making all places free in all schools supported entirely by public money.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): No information has reached me either of the prosecution or of the alleged statement of the attendance officer mentioned in the Question; a complaint was received by the Board from Alfred Whiteley in September last at being required to pay fees for the admission of his child to the school named, and on this being brought to the notice of the local education authority a free place was offered to him by the local education authority in St. Andrew's National School about a quarter of a mile from his house. The facts at present before me do not, I think, constitute a sufficient case for an inquiry of the nature suggested. It does not appear that there is any need to consider alterations in the existing law relating to school fees, since it is entirely in the option of the Local Education Authority to require the discontinuance of fees in any Public Elementary School maintained by them, and, as was pointed out to the hon. Member in reply to a Question asked by him on the 12th July,† it is the duty of every local education authority to provide a sufficient amount of public school accommodation without payment of fees in every part of their area.

### The Mall Improvement.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he will ascertain and intimate to this House what arrangements, if any, are being made to remove the three houses at Charing Cross, the removal of which is necessary to complete the Charing Cross end of the Mall improvement; and how the requisite funds will be provided.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): I am not aware that any arrangements are being made to remove any houses at Charing Cross. This is in my opinion a Metropolitan matter, and as such appertains to the business of the London County Council.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Are we to understand that the right hon. Gentleman intends to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the London County Council.

MR. HARCOURT: Yes, Sir.

### Rex v. Fowler.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether one Frank Attwood Huckle was employed by the Treasury to obtain statements from witnesses proposed to be called on behalf of the Crown in the case of Rex v. Fowler; whether Huckle is the secretary of the Reigate Liberal Association and acted on behalf of the hon. Member for Reigate as his election agent at the late election; whether it is usual for the Treasury to employ election agents to get up evidence in a criminal case; and, if not, why the usual course was departed from on this occasion.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper—

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether one Frank Attwood Huckle approached the Treasury in May last, five months after the offences alleged against Fowler in Rex v. Fowler; whether any inquiries were then made by the Treasury as to the bona fides of Huckle; and whether it was then ascertained that Huckle had acted as the election agent of the hon. Member for the Reigate Division of Surrey.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clx., 1063.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): To ask Mr. Attorney-General why seven months were allowed to elapse before summonses in the case of Rex v. Fowler were applied for at the Oxted Petty Sessions, on 13th August last, on behalf of Taylor and Flood; and whether the Treasury had all the information, upon which it was decided to proceed, in February, 1906.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the Treasury solicitor was aware at the time the prosecution of Fowler was undertaken that reductions of the staff of Lingfield racecourse had been decided upon by the owners thereof in 1903; that in January, 1904, the first reduction of staff took place; that further reductions were decided upon on the 16th March, 1905, and in July, 1905; and that on the 14th December, 1905, and the 23rd January, 1906, the dismissal of some of the prosecutors in Rex v. Fowler was ordered by the representatives of the owners, to whose orders Fowler was amenable.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether one Taylor, a prosecutor in the case of Rex *v.* Fowler, was called as a witness by the Treasury to prove a conversation in a public-house, upon which a charge brought by the Treasury was based; whether Taylor is known to be and admits he is a deaf man; and whether Richardson, a prosecutor in Rex *v.* Fowler, has on several occasions been convicted of drunkenness.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the statement of one William Richardson, a prosecutor in the case of Rex *v.* Fowler, was taken by one Frank Attwood Huckle upon instructions received by Huckle from the Treasury: and whether the statement of one William Arthur Kenward was made to one Hood and sent to Frank Attwood Huckle.

MR. HICKS BEACH: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether one Frank Attwood Huckle paid the expenses to London of the prosecutors, Hood and Taylor, in the case of Rex *v.* Fowler, and took Hood and Taylor to the Treasury.

MR. ASHLEY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether the statement of William Richardson in Rex *v.* Fowler was made, on instructions received from the Treasury, to one Frank Attwood Huckle; and whether the statement of William Arthur Kenward was made to Hood and sent to Huckle.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): I have communicated with the Public Prosecutor, and he informs me that the prosecution followed the ordinary course. We received a complaint from Mr. Huckle, who had been employed as agent for the Liberal candidate, that statements had been made to him that certain of the electors had been intimidated. Mr. Huckle was asked to produce the materials on which the complaint rested. At his suggestion to the Public Prosecutor, some of the witnesses who complained of intimidation were invited to attend the Treasury. They did so and were examined in person, and their evidence was taken by experienced members of the official staff. I have seen that evidence and I think it undoubtedly constituted a very strong statement as to language of intimidation having been used. Mr. Huckle was then asked whether that was the sole evidence he had to produce. He thought there were other persons who might be able to give corroborative evidence, and he furnished further statements of other witnesses with that object. The whole of the evidence was considered for a considerable period. I was asked to say whether the Public Prosecutor ought to refrain from prosecuting, having regard merely to the difficulty of obtaining a conviction. I told him that he must consider the case on its merits; that he must form a conclusion as to whether the evidence was sufficient and satisfactory, and that if the conclusion was favourable the case ought to be taken before the Court without reference to any difficulty which might attend obtaining convictions in cases of this class. The matter was considered by the Public Prosecutor and he brought the case before the magistrates. Of course he could not anticipate the defence, but the prosecution was not hastily undertaken. There were ample materials to support it.

LORD R. CECIL: Was Mr. Huckle employed to obtain statements from witnesses called on behalf of the Crown?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: No; only in the sense that on being asked whether the evidence he first produced exhausted his case. He then produced two other witnesses. When an election offence has been committed the person likely to complain is the election agent, who would naturally hear of matters involving a violation of the law.

LORD R. CECIL: Was it suggested to him that he should obtain a further statement?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: No. He was only asked whether the first evidence produced was the only evidence.

VISCOUNT TURNOUR: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table a copy of the statement furnished by Huckle?

*SIR JOHN WALTON said the whole correspondence was privileged, and its publication would be contrary to the public interest.

MR. CLAUDE HAY pressed for a detailed Answer to his Questions.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said the Public Prosecutor informed him that Taylor when before him appeared to be in full possession of the sense of hearing. As to whether one of the witnesses had previously been convicted of drunkenness he thought that if in an election inquiry all persons who had been convicted of drunkenness were to be ineligible as witnesses it would be impossible ever to secure a conviction.

*MR. COURTHOPE: Why were seven months allowed to elapse before the summonses were applied for?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: As a matter of fact, only three and a quarter months were allowed to elapse, and that period was devoted to a careful sifting of the evidence, to ensure that no hasty and ill-considered prosecution should take place.

### Ecclesiastical Commission Funds.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, how much of the £265,767 17s. 7d. mentioned on page 21 of the fifty-eighth Report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners represents the rent of agricultural land; what is the area of the lands producing such rent; whether these estates are managed direct or by agency; and who are the agents, if any, and what moneys have been paid to them during each of the last five years for agency work in connection with this agricultural land and also for all agency work.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): The gross rents of agricultural lands amount to approximately £250,000 out of the sum of £265,767 17s. 7d., the remainder being chiefly rents of house property in provincial towns and places. The area of the agricultural lands is about 250,000 acres. The Estates of the Commissioners are under the management of the Estates Committee and two firms of land agents are employed, viz., Messrs. Clutton, of No. 5, Great College Street, Westminster, and Messrs. Smiths Gore & Co., of No. 3, Little College Street, Westminster. Each firm employs at their own expense local sub-agents or representatives where necessary. The remuneration of each firm for agency and receivership in respect of agricultural property is a commission of 4 per cent. on the rents, and this covers also their services for superintendence of repairs and improvements and new buildings in all but exceptional cases. The total of the payments made by the Commissioners for agency in respect of all the estates vested in them for their common fund is set out each year on the other side of the account from which the figure quoted in the Question was taken.

MR. WEDGWOOD: How long has this agency existed?

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The payments extend over a very long series of years.

**Traction Engine Traffic in Roxburghshire.**

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware of the number of recent prosecutions in Roxburghshire and elsewhere of users of traction engines on the roads for not having the third man walking in front of the engine; and whether he will consider the question of dispensing with this requirement in circumstances where it is dispensed with in England and Wales.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): This matter has already been brought to my notice, and I will consider the suggestion of my hon. friend's Question.

**Tobacco Growing in Ireland.**

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, how great is the area of land in Ireland under tobacco cultivation; and if there are applications for leave to extend the area; and whether there is any objection to this extension.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): During the past season tobacco was grown on seventy-seven and a half acres by persons who were granted the necessary authority by the Board of Inland Revenue on the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Applications were also received from other persons, some of whom applied for permission to grow tobacco over a large area; but as the original concession had been granted solely for experimental purposes and as the area already under cultivation was adequate for these purposes, His Majesty's Government did not feel able to assent to any development of these experiments upon a larger area.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the opinion of many experts the area now under cultivation is not sufficient to carry out the experiments fully, and will he consider the advisability of extending the area if applications are made by responsible persons?

MR. BRYCE: Extending very much the present area is a question which touches revenue and should be addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Then I will ask the Prime Minister if he will consult the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and see whether it is possible to extend the area—in view of the fact that the very least we expect from a Liberal Government is to be allowed to grow tobacco in Ireland.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I do not know how I come into it. My hon. friend had better address his Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A first-hand Answer is better than mine would be.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman comes into it because I rely upon his good nature.

**Aghanville Estate, Geashill.**

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a memorial has been received by the Estates Commissioners, signed by occupiers of uneconomic holdings and the sons of small farmers and labourers in the locality, praying for the purchase of Aghanville Estate, near Geashill, for re-distribution amongst them; whether he is aware that this ranch of 500 acres was untenanted for the past twenty-five years and was taken by an eleven months grazier at the beginning of the present year; can he say upon what terms the planter is in occupation; and what steps the Government propose taking to deal with the taking of untenanted land by graziers.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they received a memorial to the effect mentioned in March last. The memorial related to the untenanted land on the estate of Lady Guise at Killeigh, which would appear to be identical with that described in the Question as the Aghanville Estate. The Commissioners have ascertained that this land has been sold to Mr. James Dunne, in whose occupation it had been upon a grazing tenancy. The Commissioners have made a provisional offer for the purchase from Mr. Dunne of about 100 acres of the land, and negotiations are proceeding. I have no information as to how long the land had been untenanted.

### Limerick Fishery District.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Limerick I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Board of Conservators for the Limerick fishery district have applied to the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland for financial aid; if he can say whether the accounts of this fishery board are subject to public audit; and, if not, will he ask the Treasury to order a public audit of such accounts for the past four years, to apply the same order to all Irish fishery boards, before any grants in aid are given to such boards, and to arrange that at such audits any licence holder may ask such questions in connection with such accounts as he may consider proper.

MR. BRYCE: The Board of Conservators for the Limerick district have applied to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for financial assistance. The accounts of the Board of Conservators are audited by an auditor appointed by such Board, but they are not subject to what is technically called "public" audit. There does not appear to be anything in the Fishery Acts which would authorise the Treasury to order a public audit of the accounts in question.

### Sir Henry Burke's Estate, Loughrea.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received agreements to purchase from the tenants of Sir Henry Burke's estate, Marble Hill, Loughrea, in the districts of Leitrim and Knock Ash; if so, whether these agreements were contingent upon the sale to the Commissioners of the grazing lands of Grallagh and Traskernagh; and will he explain the cause of the delay in not taking over these farms for distribution amongst the small tenants.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that purchase agreements have been lodged with them in respect of the Leitrim and Knockash portions of Sir Henry Burke's estate. These agreements do not contain any conditions as to the sale to the Commissioners of the lands of Grallagh or Traskernagh. The vendor, however, has expressed his willingness to sell the untenanted land in Grallagh to the tenants approved of by the Commissioners, and the Commissioners inspector is at present preparing a scheme for the division of these lands. He has also been directed to report as to the lands of Traskernagh.

### Galway Grazing Land.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a request was made to the Estates Commissioners by Lord Ardilaun to purchase the grazing lands of Slieverue, Moyode, and Athenry; and having regard to the urgency of dealing with a large number of small cotter tenants living on two and three acres of land in the district of Moyode, will he instruct the Commissioners to proceed with all possible despatch to the consideration of Lord Ardilaun's request.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that in June last they approached Lord Ardilaun as to the sale of his untenanted land, and in September last his agent lodged with them a map of the townlands of Moyode and Moyode Demesne, comprising 1,425 acres of untenanted land. The Commissioners have ordered a preliminary inspection, and as soon as the inspectors report has been received they will consider the question of making an offer for purchase.

### Clifden Disturbance.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 1st September, at Clifden, a number of evangelists were assaulted with sticks and stones; whether he can say if the attack was made in the presence of the police; and, if so, how many arrests were made?

MR. BRYCE: It is, I regret to say, the fact that on the 1st September, at

Clifden, the Rev. Mr. Harpur, an evangelist, was assaulted with sticks and stones. The police were not present in the first instance, as they were not aware that Mr. Harpur, who was perviously unknown to them, was in the village or about to preach. The reverend gentleman commenced his service in the market place, where street preaching has for some years past been prohibited. Upon hearing of the disturbance the police at once hurried to the spot for Mr. Harpur's protection. One arrest was made at the time. The man arrested and five others were subsequently prosecuted by the police, Mr. Harpur having declined to prosecute. Two of the defendants were fined, and the remaining four were discharged.

### The Appointment of County Magistrates

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether as the appointment of borough magistrates is made directly by the Lord Chancellor without having recourse to investigations by lords-lieutenant or other similar authorities as to the qualification of persons so to be appointed, His Majesty's Government will agree that the same procedure should be followed by the Lord Chancellor in the case of the appointment of county magistrates, without differentiation between one class of magistrate and another?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Lord-Chancellor informs me that he cannot approve of any change by which he would be deprived of the assistance of lords-lieutenant. In boroughs it is always easy to obtain from most competent quarters all necessary information as to the qualifications of candidates for the office. In counties it is often difficult, and experience has proved the absolute necessity of full inquiries before names are placed on the Commission.

### Minister of Commerce.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the introduction of a Bill to establish a bureau of a Minister of Commerce and Industry, on the lines of the Bill introduced last session by the late Government, forms part of the programme of the present Government; and, if so, whether provision will be made in the Bill to give the proper minister the *status* of a Secretary of State, and pay him an annual salary of £5,000 a year; and when the Bill is likely to be introduced.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir. His Majesty's Government have come to no decision in the matter.

SIR JOHN RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware there is amongst the commercial classes in this country a very large consensus of opinion as to the urgency and importance of such a minister being appointed.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am aware of that.

*MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): May I ask if the matter is under active consideration?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not know what "active consideration" means. I am afraid that there are a good many questions like this that are constantly under our view, but sometimes they are dormant.

*MR. R. DUNCAN: May I say that "active consideration" means consideration intended to lead to action?

### Commission on the Feeble-Minded.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether a new reference has been committed to the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded, and whether, having regard to the fact that the Commission have now been sitting for two years and to the necessity for action, he will represent to the Commission the desirability of reporting forthwith on the matters originally referred to them.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My hon. friend will have seen in the Press that the original reference of the Royal Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded has been extended. The procedure of a Royal Commission is a matter to be determined only by itself, but I have no reason to believe that the extended reference will cause any great delay in the issue of the Report of this Commission.

## SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEE.)

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Hobhouse and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. H. D. McLaren and Mr. Smeaton.

Report to lie upon the Table.

## TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

As amended, considered.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) moved a new clause providing that the Act should remain in force five years. He hoped to be able to put before the House very shortly the grounds upon which he proposed this clause. Whatever might be the opinions in various quarters of the House as to the merits or demerits of the Bill which was now before them for the first time in its present form, there could be no doubt whatever that it would make changes of the gravest and most far-reaching character in the spirit with which laws dealing with trade disputes were administered. It would be agreed on all hands that these great and grave changes were really of so experimental a character that in every quarter of the House there was the gravest uncertainty as to what their final effect would be. Hon. Gentlemen below the gangway had of course considered this Bill most carefully, and they said its effect would be altogether good. It seemed to him that they had regarded the whole of the Bill and the effect it was likely to produce from a somewhat superficial standpoint. Hon. Members below the gangway said that if this Bill became law they would henceforward be able to conduct a strike with the full force of the trade union organisations. They would be able to increase the membership and the funds of those organisations, and by the use of their funds they would be able to commit what the law called "torts" but which laymen prefer to call "wrongs." The Labour Members said that was really all they wanted and so the Bill was good enough for them. That of course was a perfectly comprehensive position. Hon. Members below the gangway would tell them that this Bill would be good for labour and would to that extent be good for capital. It seemed to him that what they had to consider was what the real, final, and fundamental effect of the Bill would be, not upon labour or capital, but upon that delicate adjustment of capital to labour upon which the success of any industrial system depended. As to the effect which this measure was going to have upon the industrial system as a whole, as far as he knew, hon. Gentlemen below the gangway had not given them one word as to what their opinion was. The same thing might be said of right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Attorney-General had told them at an earlier stage of the discussions on this matter, that in his opinion a Bill such as that which was now before the House would create a privileged proletariat. He had stated that to create what he called a privileged proletariat would be a dangerous thing to do. He agreed with the hon. and learned Gentleman to that extent, but he did not agree with his description of the Bill, and he did not believe that it created a privileged proletariat. This was a Bill for giving privileges and immunities to one section of what the hon. and learned Gentleman called the proletariat, and the question was what the effect of the gift of those privileges to a section only of the whole population would be, not upon those sections alone, but upon the whole industrial fabric of the country, which it was the business of the House to consider and regard. As to what would be the effect of the gifts of those privileges upon the whole of our industrial system, not one word or hint had escaped right hon. or hon. Gentlemen opposite. The same might be said of the hon. Gentlemen who sat below the gangway. Some hon. Members opposite held that there was no harm to be expected or anticipated in practice from the Bill. Others said that the effect of the measure would be the usual effect which followed upon granting privileges of all kinds, and that it would not help the position of trade unionism in this country; but that in the end it would hinder it and render it unpopular. Certainly on the broad and main question not one hint had come from hon. Gentlemen opposite, and they seemed to regard the Bill as a sort of sop to be thrown to hon. Members below the gangway. Upon the Opposition Benches there was without doubt a considerable amount of genuine apprehension, not confined to the narrow grounds of one section of labour or capital, which might be ill-founded, but at any rate was sincere, as to the effect the measure would have upon the industrial system of the country as a whole. The effect of the Bill upon trade unionism by itself was in the opinion of the majority of hon. Members very doubtful. [Cries of "No."] He was speaking of the ultimate and real effect of the Bill on labour as a whole, which was even more doubtful than its effect upon capital and labour. These were matters which had hardly been discussed or considered in connection with the Bill, so far as the speeches of hon. Members opposite were concerned. Therefore, one was justified in saying as the question now stood, that this was a matter to be regarded as an experiment. It would be said that the Bill was not really an experiment at all. The argument would be used that it only put the law in the position which for thirty years it was believed to stand in, and that it did not alter the law in these matters unreasonably. That might have been true of the original Bill introduced by the Government, but nobody would contend that it was in any degree true of the Bill which was now for the first time before them. One had only to glance down the margin of the Bill to confirm that statement. Clause 1 they were told was an amendment of the law of conspiracy. By Clause 2, picketing was made a matter for consideration on its merits in each case, but it was a matter definitely sanctioned with all the authority of an Act of Parliament. Clause 3 dealt with a serious liability which existed before, but which was now finally and expressly removed, and by Clause 4 not only were trade unions not to be liable in their funds, but the Bill went further and laid down what had never been enacted before, that an action should not lie and that such and such a rule should apply to an action of that character. Therefore, it was impossible to contend that the Bill was merely a confirmation of what the old law was believed to be. It made a tremendous fundamental and vastly important change, not only in the law but in the spirit of the law, and it enacted changes in regard to which the real and final effect upon the industries of this country was absolutely problematical and totally uncertain. Supposing the Bill became law, what would be its effect? In any trade dispute both employers and workmen so long as they were organised were to have express statutory authority to commit wrongs, because that was the real meaning of the word "tort," and they would have the power to do harm to persons and property without any liability whatever in respect of those wrongs. The old lines upon which the prosperity of this country had been built up were swept away and new-fangled maxims were to be put in their place. How long did right hon. and hon. Gentlemen suppose that they would be able to confine these enormous immunities to trade combinations and trade disputes alone? They would be faced at once with one hundred combinations of all kinds, and upon what principle were right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite going to refuse to other voluntary associations privileges and immunities of the enormous and far-reaching character which they were handing over to trades and industrial combinations alone? The ruin and damage which might be inflicted by voluntary associations were no worse than the damage inflicted by industrial disputes, and why were they going to treat them differently? What would be the result if hon. Gentlemen were forced to extend this principle which now for the first time they were introducing into the spirit of the laws of this country? These difficulties had been forced upon the Committee by the Attorney-General, and they might lead to disastrous results which were not expected by any section of the House. Such were a few of the elementary and uppermost questions which arose upon a cursory examination of the Bill, and it was only these circumstances, and in consideration of the character of the Bill and of its possible and very probable effects, that he asked the House to accept this clause or something very much like it. Now what did this clause do after all? It was not a far-reaching thing, and it did not exactly involve the essential principles for which hon. Gentlemen below the gangway contended. It marked the Bill as an experiment. It would lay down that Parliament considered this was an experiment to which they were ready and willing to give a fair trial, but they realised that it was an experiment, and that it involved changes of so far-reaching a character that they ought to be reconsidered after a reasonable interval of actual experience. The clause ensured that the Bill would have a fair trial for five years, and if that was not considered long enough perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would be able to suggest some other plan. At the end of that period the whole effect, not upon capital or labour, or upon any section of the population, but upon industry as a whole, might be reconsidered if necessary. Hon. Gentlemen opposite and below the gangway surely were not afraid of this proposal? If they believed that the effect of the Bill would be good, then they could have no objection to the Amendment. How could they object to a clause which allowed the Bill a fair field and a fair trial, and if, after a fair trial, and tested by practical experience, the results were really good, he did not understand how, under those circumstances, they could have the slightest fear when it came to be reconsidered by the House. If, on the other hand, it was found to be unsatisfactory, the House would be less disposed to continue an experiment that had proved unsuccessful. That being so, he did not think any real sincere believer in the Bill either could or ought to fear reconsideration of the points he had mentioned. If the Bill was good it was the simplest matter in the world to continue it, but if, on the other hand, the apprehensions proved to be well founded, if it was found that the effects of these gigantic immunities had been bad, that, on the whole, industry had suffered rather than gained, and if—and it was not at all inconceivable—it was found that trade unionism had been the loser by this kind of legislation, he thought the whole House would be glad to be afforded the opportunity which his clause would afford of reconsidering the matter in a proper manner, after the experience of five years of actual and practical working. On these grounds he hoped the House would at any rate extend a fair consideration to what seemed to him a very reasonable proposal. He begged to move.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) formally seconded.

New Amendment—

"That this Act shall remain in force for a period of five years."—(*Mr. Stewart Bowles.*)—

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said the Government did not take the view that this was a temporary measure. They intended it to be a final settlement of a controversy which had raged in an acute form for the last five years. If the measure was going to be attended by all the consequences which the hon. Member for Norwood had predicted it would be well within the competence of Parliament to repeal it at any time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London), while sharing the apprehensions of his hon. friend with regard to the provisions of this Bill—the third edition of it—was not sure that the method he proposed of limiting its operation was one which he should invite him to press. Supposing the five years came to an end, and that nothing of a serious character happened in the course of that time, ought they to be prepared to see the experiment repeated, and to look forward with confidence to future developments on the strength of five years' experience? He did not take quite so sanguine a view of the length of time within which the success or failure of the experiment could be demonstrated. He thought we were on the eve of a great development of industrial organisation—not confined to the wage-earning classes, but in the employing classes as well; but he certainly did not anticipate that in the next five years, unless some quite unforeseen event occurred, that they would see that full development. At any rate, he did not think five years an adequate time in which to test this legislation. Of the alternatives presented neither was in the fullest sense acceptable. If at the end of five years the Act was continued in the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, then they might as well make it permanent at once, because experience showed that once a Bill got into the toils of the Expiring Laws Continuance Act it never got out again for the purposes of re-survey by the House. If the second alternative was taken, of re-surveying the question at the end of the term, then he doubted whether this Parliament had any right to put upon itself or upon its successor the necessary consideration of so complicated a question at that particular time. In the third place, to repeal the Bill at the end of five years would not be acceptable to anybody, because everybody must feel that, however unsatisfactory might be the solution proposed by the Government, some amendment of the statutes under which trade unions carried on their work was imperatively required.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, W.) thought the views of the Leader of the Opposition would be listened to with respect not only by his supporters but in all parts of the House upon a question of legislative procedure, and it was quite possible that his hon. friend would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment. He confessed that he had a profound sympathy with the Amendment, and he felt strongly that this was a very special case in which it was not altogether unjustifiable that the House of Commons should say that the matter ought to be reconsidered after a fixed period. It was an experiment which certainly could not be regarded as final. To be frank, it was an entirely new departure in legislation. It contained a principle which had never been sanctioned by Parliament; it was entirely fresh and novel. It came before the House of Commons not recommended by any responsible authority at all. It had not been recommended by the Royal Commission, because that Commission reported strongly against many of its more striking clauses. It had not the authority of the Government, because the Government both before and after they introduced the Bill had delivered the strongest speeches and used some of the strongest arguments which could possibly be used against it. The Attorney-General now said that this was to be a final settlement, but he also said that the original Bill, when it was introduced, was to be a final settlement, but after three or four months consideration of it a complete change had been made in it, and now they were told that another complete change was necessary in order to effect a final settlement. Was it rational to suppose that the third attempt of the Attorney-General was likely to prove more permanent than the other attempts? If it was not permanent, was it not reasonable to say that this measure ought to be considered by Parliament after a reasonable interval? There seemed to him to be a strong logical case for the Amendment of his hon. friend. The House should also consider the nature of the Bill which it was asked to pass. He could not help feeling himself that the principle was not only novel, but exceedingly dangerous. The principle of the measure was that they were to relax the control of the law over certain disputes and differences which existed in certain parts of our social life. They were really abandoning to some extent one of the chief duties of civilised government. What hon. Gentlemen below the gangway asked them to do was this: "Let the State stand aside, and let employers and workmen fight out this question between themselves." That was not an exaggeration of some of the language which had been used in the course of the debates on this question. It was a tremendous and serious departure to ask this House to take. Its real effect was to withdraw from the control of the State a most vital question, and he believed that both employers and workmen would suffer from the Bill. He could not conceal from himself the thought that the people who would suffer even more severely were those who depended upon the industrial prosperity of the country. These considerations should be present in the mind of the House when considering the proposal to enact this Bill as a permanent measure. There were certain hon. Members opposite who entirely agreed with everything that was said about the Bill, but for reasons that he could understand they did not give effect either by speech or vote to their views. He regretted that attitude, and he hoped they would not wake up to find out that some of the causes they held dear had been compromised.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said the only reply that had been given to the Clause moved by his hon. friend was that the Attorney-General could not accept it because he desired to make the Bill a final settlement of the question. Everybody in the House, no matter what their opinions might be, were desirous of effecting final settlement of the question. What they had to consider was whether this Bill would secure that end. What reasons had they for supposing that this measure would be a final settlement? The new clause proposed by his hon. friend covered a sufficient period to give them experience as to whether or not the Bill would work well, and and if at the end of five years it was found that the Bill had not worked well, either from the point of view of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway or from the point of view of the employers, then there would be an opportunity of reconsidering the whole question. He had had the honour of a seat in the House for more than fourteen years, and he had seen a great many Bills brought up in regard to which their promoters stated that they would be a final settlement of the questions dealt with. He thought he was right in saying that there was not a single hon. Member in the House who would get up and say that he could point to any important measure which had ever resulted in being the final settlement of any question. Hon. Members below the gangway had always said that the Bills brought in for the regulation of Irish matters were going to be the final settlement of the Irish question, but the more Bills they passed, the greater had become the question and no final settlement had ever been arrived at. Whatever views they took about this Bill there was no doubt that it was an extremely important measure. The trade of this country, for a variety of reasons which he did not propose to go into, was, except in one or two special instances, not good. He did not wish to delay the proceedings by going into what trades were good and what were bad, but with the exception of Manchester and one or two other places, trade was not good generally. In addition to that question they were face to face with foreign competition. It was undoubted that this Bill would go far to affect trade one way or the other and he thought it would affect trade badly. Hon. Members below the gangway thought it would improve trade, but he thought it would make it worse. What objection could there be to limiting the operation of the Bill to five years? At the end of five years hon. Members could come forward and say, if the Bill had been a success, "You see we were right, our prophecies have turned out true and yours were wrong." In that case the Bill would be renewed and nobody would dare to oppose its renewal. If, on the other hand, the fears of those sitting on that side of the House were correct they would be afforded an opportunity of reversing the position, and saying, "You have proved yourselves to be wrong, now let us go back to our old system before the whole trade of the country is destroyed; let us return to the original state of affairs and endeavour to restore the prosperity which this Bill has destroyed." That seemed to him to be a reasonable proposition, and he was further convinced upon this point because no hon. Member opposite had got up to contend the opposite. The only argument advanced had been the argument of the Attorney-General which had been so ably dealt with by the noble Lord the Member for West Marylebone. The Attorney-General had already proposed three methods of settlement, and, unless he was very much mistaken, the third settlement was not his own but the settlement of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway. Under these circumstances he hoped that unless some much stronger reasons than had been advanced up to the present could be put forward the House would accept the clause that had been moved by his hon. friend.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) thought he could remind the House of an important precedent of a temporary Act which did not get itself involved in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, and which did not get itself into such a position that it could not be extracted from that kind of entangling circumstance. The precedent he referred to was the Agricultural Rating Act, and there were some other analogies. That Bill was denounced as class legislation, and he hoped the significance of that analogy would be borne in mind. It led to a good deal of discontent among a large minority in this House, and who could say that the same would not prove to be true in regard to this Bill? He felt that there would be a large number of hon. Members who would be dissatisfied with this legislation if it was passed in its present form. It might be argued that it should be made perpetual and be regarded as a final settlement, because it was what was called labour legislation. As an instance of labour legislation of a temporary character there was the Employers' Liability Act of 1880, which had to be annually continued in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill; and when in 1895 the Eight Hours for Miners Bill passed its Second Reading, and got effectively into Committee, one of the first Amendments accepted was an Amendment limiting its operation to three or five years. Therefore he thought his hon. friend had ample warrant for making this proposal, and whether it went to a division or not the question had been well worth bringing forward.

*MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) thought that they ought not to commit themselves to any Resolution that this Bill embodied a settlement for five years to come. He knew perfectly well the danger of combinations, whether of employers or employed. Why should they not have an amending Bill, and agree to profit by experience, as wise men always did. They had heard of a Prime Minister, who lived in history as "Finality John," who once said that the course of reform had reached its limit in the nineteenth century and, as King Canute would say, "Thus far and no further." But "Finality John" was no longer looked upon as an authority upon that question. Might he recall to the recollection of the House that on Wednesday they heard a most eloquent and learned speech from the right hon. Gentleman sitting in front of him, but on Friday he had formed an entirely different opinion.

MR. BOWLES said that after the debate they had had he did not wish to occupy further the time of the House, and he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke), who had given notice of a new clause defining the term "trade dispute," said he would not press his Amendment at the present time because he noticed that the Attorney-General proposed to deal under Clause 5 with the definition of the phrase "trade dispute." It was a longer definition than his own and he could not say he agreed with the whole of it, but obviously the matter could not be discussed twice and he imagined that it would be more convenient to take the discussion upon the Attorney-General's Amendment.

*MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) moved a new clause dealing with the limitation of actions against trade unions. He did not think he could do better than to repeat the speech which the Attorney-General made when he introduced this Bill, for the arguments he then brought forward would be within the recollection of the House. He would, however, only trouble the House by quoting one or two paragraphs from the Attorney-General's speech. He was simply dealing now with this particular clause and not with the principles of the other clauses of the Bill. The whole difficulty has arisen on this point on account of the law of agency—the application of the law of agency to trade unions. A principal was liable for the acts of his agent acting within the general scope of his authority. In the case of trade unions there had been in the past a grievance which ought to be remedied, and the Royal Commission reported that, in their opinion, there was a distinct grievance of trade unions arising from the fact that their ramifications and branches extended all over the country. On page 8 of the Royal Report they said—

> "The first is as regards what are known as their 'branches,' which are often in a semi-independent position to the union as a whole or its central executive. It is not unnaturally looked upon as a hardship that the funds of the whole union may be rendered liable by the unauthorised act of some branch agent."

The provision in the Government Bill as originally brought forward did provide a remedy in this respect, and it followed out the recommendation of the Royal Commission. The Attorney-General said on that point—

> "We propose so to define the law of agency in its application to these unions that no act can be the foundation of a claim for redress from trade union funds unless it is perfectly clear that that act was authorised by the governing body of the union."

Later on the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Why not say that no action whatever shall be brought? Just let me ask the House to face the position. The proposition, as I understand it, is that however great the loss that may be suffered by an individual and however unjustifiable the conduct of the union which may occasion that loss may be, even in the case of that conduct which may have been carried out by the funds of the union and controlled by the union, they are not to be made liable for the consequences of that law."

The right hon. Gentleman further said—

> "Do not let us create a privilege for the proletariat and give a sort of benefit of the clergy to the trade unions analogous to the benefit of clergy which was formerly enjoyed and which created an immunity against actions in favour of certain sections of the population."

He would like also, to quote the opinion of one or two other Members and to refer to the debate which took place last year, when the Bill dealing with trade unions was brought forward by the hon. Member for the Spen Valley Division. During the course of that debate the hon. Member for Mid Durham seconded the Bill, and at the end of his speech he asked for fair play in this matter. He said—

> "Now all he said was 'give us fair play.' He would concede this, if a committee or organisation deputed any man whatever, to do that which might be wrong he had no objection to it being made liable, because it was the union itself which was doing it. But if he went to a place where there was a strike without the sanction of the committee, and urged the men to that which was wrong he ought to be punished, and the funds ought not to be mulcted. The day had come when they should drop all reference to the Taff Vale and other cases. Let the dead past bury its dead. Let them start anew. Let them have a law fair, honourable, and just to every man."

Later on in the debate the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressed his opinion, and he said—

> "The real evil to be guarded against, which had been accentuated and intensified by this decision of the House of Lords, was that the funds of the union might be made liable for the acts of persons who were really irresponsible agents, though their agency might be attributed to the union. If they could once get such a limitation of the law of agency as would protect the union, and, therefore its funds, from the acts of those who were not definitely authorised to bind it, he believed the result of the decision in the Taff Vale case would almost entirely disappear."

Those words of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer were absolutely carried out by the clause brought forward by the Government and introduced in such eloquent terms by the Attorney-General. They all knew that influence had since been brought to bear upon the Government to modify that view, but he contended that the whole proposition now was going far beyond what was really necessary. It was giving immunity to trade unions to do any amount of damage both public and private, and yet their funds were not to be liable. The Royal Commission in a paragraph in their Report, said—

> "There is no rule of law so elementary, so universal, and so indispensible as the rule that a wrongdoer should be made to redress his wrong."

He was at loss to understand why any person in this country should be found unwilling to come forward and dispute that proposition. Surely it was one of the most elementary propositions that a wrongdoer ought to be responsible for his actions. By this Bill that proposition was entirely disputed. [Cries of "No."] The original Bill brought forward by the Attorney-General amply covered any reasonable grievance which trade unions under present circumstances experienced, and if they were exempted from the law of agency as applied in the Taff Vale case, every grievance they brought forward would be legitimately met. He noticed that the reason given for the change in the Bill of the Government was expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a speech to his constituents on the 13th October, reported in *The Times* of the 15th. The right hon. Gentleman was reported to have said—

> "On only one point, namely, the process by which the union funds should be protected, had there been any difference of opinion. He had never disguised his preference for the methods proposed by the Government Bill in the form in which it was first introduced, but the question was highly technical, and upon such a point as that he was not ashamed to give way to the opinion of others whose authority he recognised, always with this proviso, which was completely satisfied by the present form of the Government Bill, that no immunity should be conferred upon any combination of men which was not fully and equally extended on the same terms to combinations of employers."

The comment he had to make on that speech was that the difference between the two clauses was not technical, but was a matter of great substance. In the first clause a union would not be liable for the acts of an agent if they protected themselves in the way proposed, but in the present case they were not to be liable at all, whether they protected themselves or not. They were not to be liable if the Committee passed a sober Resolution authorising wrongful acts to be done. Surely that was not a technical matter, but a matter of real substance. Then the right hon. Gentleman opposite consoled himself in the fact "that the same law is to apply to both employers and workmen." He would like to inform him that it was not so at all, because he had never heard of actions being brought by employers against workmen, the workmen were not rich people with property, and therefore it would not be worth while bringing actions against them. [AN HON. MEMBER: It has been done in many cases recently.] The Government could not justify their change of front by saying that employers were placed on the same footing as the workmen, for employers did not ask for any such immunity, if they did commit tortious acts they were willing to abide the consequences. He hoped even at the last moment that the Government would go back to their original plan in order to see if that plan would not be effective. In later years it would then be possible to bring in another Bill to amend the present one if necessary in order to make it more successful.

New Clause:—

"(1) Where a committee of a trade union constituted as hereinafter mentioned has been appointed to conduct on behalf of the union a trade dispute, an action whereby it is sought to charge the funds of the union with damages in respect of any tortious act committed in contemplation or furtherance of the trade dispute, shall not lie, unless the act was committed by the committee or by some person acting under their authority. Provided that a person shall not be deemed to have acted under the authority of the committee if the act was an act or one of a class of acts expressly prohibited by a resolution of the committee, or the committee by resolution expressly repudiate the act as soon as it is brought to their knowledge. (2) The committee may be a committee appointed either generally to conduct all trade disputes in which the union may be involved, or to conduct any trade disputes of a specified class or in a specified locality, or to conduct any particular trade dispute."—(*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Mr. Samuel Roberts.*

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said the position of hon. Gentlemen opposite differed from that of the Labour Party. He freely acknowledged that the Ministerialists fell into two classes so far as their attitude to this Bill was concerned. There was a considerable number—the majority—who promised clearly and definitely at the last general election that they would support the Labour Party's Bill. They had honestly, as far as possible, tried to carry out that pledge, and he attributed far more effect to the pressure they had brought to bear upon the Government than to that brought by the Labour Party. To that section of the Liberal Party he made no appeal, but there was another section which took a very different view, and took it not on details but on principles. To them he hoped even now, on the Report stage of the Bill, it might not be too late to address an observation. When the subject first engaged public attention, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a speech, and he did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman quite realised the extent of his responsibility in this matter. There were many Liberals, he believed, who were forming a judgment how they should vote on the question, and who naturally attached immense importance to the right hon. Gentleman's utterances on the subject. Their judgment could not fail to be affected by the assurances of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, couched in language so clear, as almost to amount to a menace, that in no circumstances would he allow himself to be intimidated into supporting the Bill as it now stood.

MR. ASQUITH dissented.

MR. F. E. SMITH said the right hon. Gentleman shook his head, but, in company with the Minister for War, he clearly declared before the last general election that he did not approve of, and would not assent to, the present proposals.

MR. ASQUITH: I do not think I ever referred to the question at the general election, certainly not in any such terms as the hon. Member attributes to me. The only passage, which I have seen frequently quoted, is in an address to the Eighty Club about three years ago. My impression is that last session I supported the Second Reading of this Bill.

**MR. F. E. SMITH** pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman supported that Bill in common with many Unionist Members on the Opposition side of the House who thought that some change in the law was necessary, and that the matter should be discussed in Committee. The right hon. Gentleman said when the Bill was being discussed on 10th March, 1905—

> "The real evil to be guarded against, which had been accentuated and intensified by this decision of the House of Lords, was that the funds of a union might be made liable for the acts of persons who were really irresponsible agents, though their agency might be attributed to the union. If they could once get such a limitation of the law of agency as would protect the union, and, therefore, its funds, from the acts of those who were not definitely authorised to bind it, he believed the result of the decision in the Taff Vale case would almost entirely disappear."

The Secretary of State for War had said—

> "If the trade unions believed that Mr. Asquith and himself were going to accept at the dictation of the Labour Party Mr. Keir Hardie's proposals, they were very much mistaken."

That was what this new clause proposed. The provocative language on this occasion to which he had referred was used by the Minister for War, who he observed left the House at the momont when it would have been extremely convenient for him to explain what he then meant.

**MR. ASQUITH**: He is coming back again.

**MR. F. E. SMITH** remarked that what the right hon. Gentleman said was that if trade unionists believed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and himself were going to accept, at the dictation of the Labour Party, the proposals of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, they were very much mistaken. He did not remember ever having heard the Chancellor of the Exchequer dissociate himself from that statement. If it was still the view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for War, and the Attorney-General, that the better proposal of the two was the original proposal of the Government, he trusted they might be favoured by some explanation—of principle and not of political expediency—why that had ceased to be their position. The only public explanation given by the Attorney-General of the change of principle appeared to be that so long as the same facilities or rights were given to the associations of employers his chief objection disappeared. How could it possibly matter to a man who wished to bring an action against a trade union to recover damages, it might be for an act authorised by their executive council, whether, if he wanted to bring an action against an association of employers, they would enjoy the same immunity? The point of view they had to consider was not that of employer and workman, but of a member of the outside public whom they were depriving of his legal remedy. All that had been done was to increase the anomaly by adding to the number of people who were to enjoy an immunity of which on principle the right hon. Gentleman entirely disapproved. If it was too late to recall the Chancellor of the Exchequer to that better self which spoke before the general election, at least he might condescend to give some explanation of his changed position. No honest Minister would take up the position that the way he originally recommended was only one of two ways when that first way was recommended on the ground of public morality. They had been told by the Attorney-General that if these privileges were given to trade unionists, which no other section of the community enjoyed, those privileges could not long be withheld from other bodies. Was it less detestable to create a privilege for a proletariat than for any other class? That was the gravamen of the charges made against many of the proposals of the late Government. When the late Administration brought forward measures they were frequently told that they introduced a privilege for the Church or for landowners. If that were so it was wrong, but surely it was equally wrong to introduce a Bill which gave privileges to the proletariat. Was it too much to ask that they might be told that night—yea or nay—by the Attorney-General whether this Bill created a new privilege for the proletariat? What explanation had the Chancellor of the Exchequer given of his change of opinion, except that he could not have controlled his party in the division lobby? But to these right hon. Gentleman he appealed without the slightest hope of success. He had no hope that Ministers would abandon the second—no, the third—of the final positions they had adopted.

He appealed rather to the judgment of private Members, whom he would remind of the statement made by the hon. Member for Derby at the Trade Union Conference. The hon. Member then declared that if they were to say that though the Central Executive Council had authorised a particular act, the trade union funds should not be liable, they were going to call into existence a new privilege, for which they could not find any logical defence on the floor of the House of Commons, and which it would never be possible to press home. If anyone could have said that we were behind other countries in respect of this question it might have been an important argument, though it would not have got rid of the objection to the principle. But the experience of those countries where trade unions were most powerful was precisely the opposite. He would appeal to every hon. Member of this House who had not given a definite pledge to support the clause of his hon. friend, which was exactly the same clause as the Government originally introduced. He did not appeal to the Attorney-General, who had from the first been like a rudderless ship, floating about at the mercy of every eddy and wind; but he thought he might say that on the great question of principle involved he had the support of those to whom the Government at first trusted the formulation of this immensely important legislation.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH) said that before the House rose in August, he explained with great explicitness his own view of the matter, but since he had been challenged to justify the change of attitude which had occurred, he would briefly restate his own position. The Taff Vale decision created universal surprise. For thirty years we had all lived under the impression that the state of the law which this Bill was intended to bring about was the actual law of the land. For thirty years society went on, trade disputes occurred from time to time, but they were conducted, as was admitted by everybody, with a mitigation of temper, and an improvement of method, which were most welcome signs in the industrial history of the country. The terrible consequences which had been depicted as likely to result from giving a "charter of licence" to associations, as well of employers as employed, did not occur. Even the late Government appointed a Commission to inquiry into this matter, thereby showing that they recognised the necessity of an alteration of law after the Taff Vale decision. There was in fact no difference as to the end sought to be attained. The sole question was by what mode we could most easily, effectually, and with least sacrifice of general convenience attain that end. He expressed the opinion immediately after the Taff Vale decision—and it was an opinion from which he had never receded—that the most practical and best way of attaining the object desired was by limitation of the law of agency and the law of conspiracy. It turned out, however, that not only hon. Gentlemen below the gangway, on the Opposition side, but the bulk of those who sat on the Government side of the House, took a different view. In a mere matter of method, however, he did not think there was anything dishonourable or unworthy in deferring to the prevailing opinion of those who after all were the best judges in the matter. This was his position, and he was content to leave it to the judgment of his countrymen. Perhaps it would be asked, "Are you right in thinking that this is a question not so much of principle as of method?" To this his reply was that even if the plan he preferred had been adopted, it might have been urged in the same way that he was making a privileged *status* for the trade unions. It might have been said that his position was that the conditions under which they carried on their operations were so exceptional that the ordinary laws of agency ought not to apply to them. Therefore this objection, the main objection of the previous speaker in point of principle, applied equally to both methods. He adhered to the statement, at which the hon. and learned Gentleman had rather sneered, that he would never have consented—there the question of principle came in—to such a proposition as was contained in the Bill unless the same measure had applied to associations of employers and associations of employed. In this Bill they were expressly put on the same level. The scheme proposed by the measure in its present form was one which past experience had shown was not accompanied with injurious effects either to employers or employed or to the community at large, and he had no hesitation in heartily supporting it.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said he was not likely to impute to his right hon. friend anything dishonourable, but he wished to express his profound difference from him when he regarded his change of front as a technical matter and not as a change of importance. The right hon. Gentleman was perfectly right in saying that for thirty years a certain condition of the law was believed generally by the legal profession to exist. That was the only argument in favour of these proposals. He himself agreed that after that decision the law should be made clear, but the only change that was required in the law was one, not authorising the doing of wrong, but providing that those who were not responsible for the wrong should be immune from the results of its commission. That was the original proposal, but now for the first time in the history of the English Legislature it was proposed that people should be able deliberately to authorise the commission of wrong, and should not be civilly responsible. He regretted that the Members of the Labour Party should, the first time they were able to use their power, ask the House not merely to give them a privilege, but a privilege which involved the right to break the moral law. That was what they had asked the Government to do, and what the Government had now resolved to do. Whereas formerly there was to be a prohibition of actions of tort against trade unions except in certain circumstances, there was now a prohibition of all actions against trade unions. [" No."] Under this Bill there was a prohibition, he repeated, of all actions against trade unions, and there was even a prohibition of an ordinary action for injunction, because the Bill did not merely refer to trade disputes. If a trade union thought fit to enter the house, even of another, and use it for its own purposes for the time being, no action for ejectment, no action for damage, no action for nuisance would lie. Had hon. Members reflected what they were doing, and had the House really reflected on the extraordinary flimsiness of the appeal which had temporarily satisfied the conscience of the Chancellor of the Exchequer? The right hon. Gentleman said he had brooded on this matter for three years, and that to-day he held the firm position he took upon it then. He held that opinion so tenderly to-day that he was going to vote against it. What had altered the opinion he took up three years ago and held a few months ago? The right hon. Gentleman said that what had satisfied his conscience was the fact that the immunity was to extend not merely to trade unions but to federations of employers. Let the right hon. Gentleman consider what the effect of that was. The Federation of Employers did not ask to break the law. They did not ask for a Parliamentary enactment to break the law. Therefore they had these two parties confronted. One asked Parliament to sanction their breaking the law, and the other did not [Cries of " They break it without "] and that being so, would any hon. Member get up in his place and say when two people were confronting each other, one of whom wished in the contest between them to commit a fraud and the other did not, that it would satisfy anybody adjudicating on the rights of the question to say that his conscience was satisfied because they could both commit fraud? The thing was too flimsy to stand. But let them look at it from the point of view of all those who stood outside a trade dispute, but who might be vitally injured by it. How was their position affected by the fact which had proved such a salve to the conscience of the right hon. Gentleman? It accentuated their grievance. In the future they were to have immunity given not merely to trade unions to injure people without risk or remedy but to the Employers' Federation, and the difficulty of the third party who stood outside the dispute altogether was largely increased. This was a deplorable moment to put forward such a claim on behalf of the body of trade unionists so soon after the concession of workmen's compensation and the privileges which they were all glad in this House to extend to them.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was a right, not a privilege.

MR. LYTTELTON: It was a right which was entirely novel; a right which imposed for the first time an obligation on an industry to make good the injury caused sometimes even by a man's own negligence. [Cries of "Oh."] He knew what he was saying. That legislation was beneficent legislation for the working classes of this country and they had benefited from it, and he was sorry they should have come forward so soon after and claimed for themselves as against others privileges which were not founded on right but were undoubtedly based on wrong.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington) said that as his name had spread largely abroad during the last few weeks, he wished to define what exactly was his own opinion. For a long time past he had been strongly interested in this question. They were all agreed that trade unions must be differentially treated. They were differentially treated in the year 1871 by the first Act. They were originally illegal associations, being in restraint of trade, and Parliament intervened and put them in a privileged position. The Unionist Government followed this up in 1875 and 1876 by putting them into a further privileged position. It was believed for thirty years that trade unions could not be sued. The right hon. Gentleman said, "You are to be placed in a specially privileged position." "You" meant the trade unions. What was a trade union? It was an association of persons—it did not matter whether they were engaged in labour or anything else—who had subscribed certain funds for certain purposes and appointed a committee to look after certain interests. Those funds were subscribed by people living in the most distant parts of the country—such as the railway servants, who were spread all over the country—and it was obvious that they could not take an active part in the management of the funds. Obviously they were bound to leave it to the committee to manage the funds. The rules allowed the funds to be used in giving strike pay, and also provided that the funds were to be used for sick pay and benefits of various kinds. The short position was this. The funds had been handed over by the persons who subscribed them, without the slightest authority for their being used for illegal purposes. They were subscribed to keep people when out of employment, even during a strike. There was no illegality in that. What happened? For the first time, contrary to the expectation of the Court of Appeal, contrary to what had been believed—he did not deny the justice of it; from the point of view of abstract law he accepted the finding of the highest tribunal—the House of Lords, the highest tribunal of the law, said the Acts of 1875 and 1876 had not done what they ought to have done and what it was supposed they had done, namely, left the trade unions incapable of being sued in an action for a wrong at common law. That was the position of the trade unions at common law—that an action could not be brought against them for any of these things, and it was believed that the Act of Parliament had not altered that *status* so as to give a trade union such a corporate capacity as to enable it to be sued. The House of Lords reversed the decision of the Court of Appeal. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the injury that might be done to industry by this Bill. He ventured to say that nothing had done such injury to industry as the sense of injustice and wrong that had been engendered in the past. The feeling of bitterness which had been introduced into this matter was such that it became necessary that any Government should undertake to try and amend the situation. It created a situation which it was essential should be dealt with, and he never heard any situation dealt with more clearly than this was dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman himself during the life of the late Parliament when he rose from the Treasury bench and pointed out the injustice the law had caused, and undertook to deal with the question. He presumed when right hon. Members opposite appointed the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Dunedin they intended to do what Conservative Governments had done before and to put the trade unions into a further privileged position. What they would have done he did not know. He took part in the debates at the time and he was anxious to bring on some amendment on the lines of equity. He accepted the equity of the argument that they must deal with the trade unions now that they were declared to be incorporated by placing them in a differential position. Otherwise they would defeat the very purpose of those who originally framed the statute. Nobody supposed that at common law such an association could be sued, and Parliament abstained from saying in actual terms that they were going to be incorporated. He thought the best way of dealing with the situation was not to repeal the Act of 1871, which would have to be repealed now in order to insure their not being incorporated, but to interfere in a radical fashion with the doctrine of agency as applied to these trade unions. Just let them consider what the agency was. He contended that the trade unions never intrusted these funds to the committee for improper purposes; they were intrusted to them for proper and legitimate purposes. But the technical rule of the law, the necessary rule no doubt, was that the maxim of *respondiat superior* applied. That said that the man who was superior must answer, and according to technical law and the technical rules which were necessary it made the superior or principal, who in this case was the trade union, liable. It was necessary to deal with that because the principal in a trade union was a very different person from any other principal. Trade unionists lived all over the United Kingdom and they could not come together to control these matters. It therefore seemed to him that the proper way was to limit the law of agency in a way as radical as anything that this Bill contemplated. It would prevent actions being brought against trade unions in cases of ordinary principle. Nothing was done by the late Government to carry out the report of the Royal Commission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was not issued.

MR. HALDANE said he did not doubt that had it been issued the right hon. Gentleman would have taken some step, although they never knew in what form the matter would have been dealt with. In the course of the election he made a statement on this subject and he stood by it. The hon. Member for Merthyr, in terms which he did not think too conciliatory or agreeable, had said strong things about having his own way about the then Trade Disputes Bill, and he answered that the hon. Member for Merthyr might do what he pleased, but he for his part should take his own way and should not move. He was perfectly free to take his own way. His purpose was to put the trade unions in a position which would restore the *status quo*. Whether he did it by a revolution in their case of the law of agency—which would have been just as great a revolution as any clause in this Bill—or by any other method was a matter for him; it was not intended to be for the hon. Member for Merthyr or anybody else. When he came to it he found a good deal of discussion, and the enormous preponderance of opinion was for doing the thing in the simplest, though possibly the least logical way—not by cutting into the law of agency, but by simply saying you are not to sue the trade union. That being the general view, it was all one to him how it was done. The one course mounted to the same thing as the other. He was free to confess that he thought the simplest course was the one which had been adopted. It amounted to exactly the same thing in the long run. They simply put the trade union in exactly the same position as everybody believed it to be in. He might have thought that one way was the simplest fashion of attaining that end, or he might have thought that another way was the best, but that was not a matter of other than technical interest, and if his clause had been adopted it would have been denounced just as strongly by hon. Gentlemen opposite as the present clause was. The clause that had been chosen redressed a great injustice, and, let them say what they liked on the balance of advantage or disadvantage, there was no man who had surveyed the situation since the Taff Vale judgment, and had realised the amount of ill-feeling and social disturbance which the state of the law had made, but would agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite in a speech he made some years ago, that there were few questions more urgently demanding the interposition of Parliament.

MR. LYTTELTON said what he stated on the occasion referred to was that so far as he could then survey the situation great abuses arose through the tyranny of both trade unions and federations of employers, and that if he had the direction of legislation in the matter he would curtail both.

MR. HALDANE said he was afraid that in whatever form they had proposed to deal with the matter the result would have been the same. Until they faced boldly the conclusion that it was only because of a technicality that a trade union could be sued at all they would never get out of the difficulty, and, accordingly, this clause was introduced to deal with the matter in the shortest, simplest, and most effective manner.

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) said the first point in the speech to which they had just listened, and to which he would take exception, was the statement that in whatever form the Government had endeavoured to alter the existing state of things as regarded the trade unions it would have met with exactly the same opposition. The answer to that statement was to be found in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman himself. The right hon. Gentleman had regretted that the Report of the Royal Commission was not out in time to enable His Majesty's late Government to deal with the very question about which the right hon. Gentleman had just spoken. This point was by far the most important and most contentious in the Bill. But they who were opposed to the Government's present proposals and supported the clause now before the House had at least the satisfaction of knowing that they were supporting the view which represented the mature and deliberate opinion of the Cabinet itself. He believed a change of front like that executed by the present Government in this matter was altogether unprecedented in our political history. It was quite true there had been occasions when Governments, actuated by new facts or new arguments, had altered a vital principle of their Bill. But that was not the position here. This point had been before the House for five years. The Government deliberately represented to the House that one course was right and another wrong. There had been Governments also which had been compelled to give way as regards their own opinion even on important points because of the opinion of the majority of their own followers, but there had never been a Government which, to use a colloquial expression, had "given itself away" so openly and so shamelessly. What was the explanation? "There" [pointing to the LABOUR Benches] was the explanation. In this Parliament, for practically the first time, an extraneous body had forced itself into the solid substance of the Liberal Party. A wild animal—if he might use a simile without any disrespect, for he felt none, towards the hon. Members to whom he alluded—had tried to plant itself on the domestic hearth of the Liberal Party. How were they to deal with it? They might have risen in their anger and tried to drive it away. That would have been dangerous. So they adopted another plan They had made a family pet of it, or tried to do so. And during the whole time they had been in office right hon. Gentlemen on the Government bench, and especially the most important of them, had been chiefly employing their time in stroking the ruffled fur of this new inmate, and the more they stroked it the more it growled. And this new concession was a sop intended to prevent the growl being changed into a bite. It was true that some children of the family, one adopted son especially, had been kicking against this arangement; but what the future developments might be must be between right hon. Gentlemen opposite and the hon. Member to whom he referred. He had dealt so far with the Cabinet as a whole. He would now take the case of the right hon. Gentleman himself. He thought that the part played by individual Members of the Cabinet was still more remarkable than the change of front on the part of the Cabinet itself. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to some correspondence addressed to him by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, and to a reply which he had given in an address to his constituents in Scotland. He was afraid that the right hon. Gentleman had not refreshed his memory by referring either to the correspondence or to his own speech. The right hon. Gentleman now said that he meant to be perfectly free in dealing with this question. The right hon. Gentleman was entirely wrong. The point at issue in the letter was the very point at issue in the discussion now; the very proposal now being discussed was the proposal which the right hon. Gentleman then described as a preposterous proposal. The right hon. Gentleman challenged the Member for Merthyr to go to Haddington. These were brave words; the Member for Merthyr did not go to Haddington; Haddington had gone to the Member for Merthyr. The attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been the same. Up to to-day, however, there was one difference. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War had been doing a great deal of thinking aloud, but his thoughts on this subject he had kept to himself. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was bolder; he went to his constituents and defended the change of view he had taken on two grounds—first, "it was only a difference of method." But the Attorney-General, speaking for the Government, said that this proposal would create a class privilege; so that in the eyes of hon. Members opposite whether a class privilege was or was not created, was simply "a difference of method." What, then, in the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman opposite would constitute a difference of principle?

MR. HALDANE: I never proposed to create a class privilege—that was created in 1871.

MR. BONAR LAW said the words he had quoted were used by the Attorney-General. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer had another argument. The right hon. Gentleman, using words almost as strong as those he used at the general election, said that—

> "Nothing in the world would have induced him to grant this unless the same thing had been given to the masters."

He had said that apparently seriously, without a smile on his face, but no one knew better than the right hon. Gentleman how absurd the suggestion was. The contention of the right hon. Gentleman amounted to this: that here was an evil, and he would on no account permit it to come to pass unless the area of the evil was extended. It was bad, but it became good the moment that it was made twice as bad. There would be something in it if these two classes embraced the whole population, but trade unionists and employers combined embraced only a fraction of the population—at the very outside not more than a quarter—and the right hon. Gentleman proposed that the other three-quarters should be subjected to control by two bodies, which were outside the law, and that they should be ground between the upper and lower millstones of capital and labour. He believed there was not a Member representing trade unionism who was not now in favour of this proposal, though the right hon. Gentleman who sat opposite said on one occasion in dealing with this very point, that trade unionists would not be so unjust as to claim a privilege which would obviously be a class privilege. He did not think on that occasion the right hon. Gentleman showed that knowledge of human nature which he generally displayed. No man could be a judge in his own case. When even the right hon. Gentlemen who sat on the front Ministerial Bench had shown in the last week that they were willing to push through anything which would add to their own power, how could they expect trade unionists to act differently from other people? Though, of course, they were in favour of getting increased power, as everybody was, surely that was no reason why this House, which ought to represent not one class but every class, should give these special privileges. Although these right hon. Members whom he had quoted had changed their minds he could not doubt that there were some among them who looked with apprehension upon the result of this Bill. One effect, he thought, would inevitably be to lessen the control which leaders of trade unionists had upon their own organisation. The hon. Member for Derby, speaking of the Taff Vale decision, which was the cause of all this trouble, had said that if the executive had not defied the law it would not have happened, and if the executive had obeyed their own rules there would have been no Taff Vale question, and no Taff Vale decision. Were they more or less likely to obey the rules when the sense of responsibility was taken from them by the passing of this Bill? He believed many hon. Gentlemen opposite were prepared to support this proposal, because they felt that in any dispute capital had the best of it, and that even with this change labour would not be on an equality with capital. That might be an argument for State intervention in trade disputes, but it was not an argument for placing one class above all others in the eyes of the law. There was another consideration he would like to put before the House. Hon. Gentlemen below the gangway claimed that they represented exclusively the labouring classes, and that anything which was to the benefit of their unions was of necessity for the benefit of labour as a whole. That was a claim he had always disputed. Speaking broadly, he said these hon. Gentlemen represented not the working-class as a whole, but the aristocracy of the working-classes. He said advisedly that the interests of the skilled artisan were not identical with the interests of unskilled labour in this country. He instanced the unfortunate labour dispute now taking place on the Clyde. In those yards where men were out of work there were skilled workmen receiving a larger amount of pay for one day's work than the unskilled labourers for a whole week's work. In what way were the wages of the unskilled labourers to be raised? It could be done only in one of two ways—either by taking a larger share from the profits of capital or making more equality between the wages of the skilled and unskilled labourers. The amount from profits was limited, and for that the skilled workmen would compete for their own class. Therefore the interests of skilled workmen were diametrically opposed to the interests of unskilled workmen. In completing that argument he would only use the words of the Attorney-General himself. He put these two grounds. These were almost his words, if not his exact words: "Are you sure that in removing an injustice from one class you are not inflicting a greater injustice on some other class of the community?" He would like to conclude by making a statement which, he was afraid, after what he had said, would not be accepted readily, but he made it because it was true. He had no hostility to trade unions. He knew the employing class as well as others, though he had never had any interest himself as an employer of labour. He believed they were like other classes—neither better nor worse—but he would be very sorry to see the working-men of this country deprived of the advantage which combination gave in dealing with employers. He would be sorry to see the individual workman driven to make his bargain with the individual employer. For that reason he would have been in favour of a Bill on the lines of the Report of the Royal Commission, but that was no reason why they should put one class or two classes in an entirely exceptional position, above the law of the country. He was not opposed to the Bill as a whole; there was much in it that he would gladly vote for. He was opposed to this proposal because he honestly believed it would press most hardly, not upon the capitalists—they would take care of themselves—but on the unorganised and unskilled labour of the country.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said that in the eloquent speech they had heard from the hon. Member there were several references to utterances of his in connection with the introduction of this Bill. He had had many occasions to reflect on what he then said, and he had had frequently called to his attention quotations which had been liberally made from his remarks. Unfortunately, some of the arguments in his speech seemed to have furnished material for attacks which hon. Members opposite had made upon the Bill, but he thought when that speech was considered with the occasion in connection with which it was made, there was no reason why he should regret or withdraw a single statement in it. If hon. Members would bear with him for a moment while he gave a plain statement of the case which he submitted for the consideration of the House, they would see that if he had said less or said more than he did say he would have been guilty either of disrespect to the House itself or of disloyalty to the Government of which he was a humble Member. The hon. Member for Dulwich had expressed the hope that he would not be provoked into using as strong language as he said he himself had been guilty of in the remarks he had made in connection with this measure. But the hon. Member had used language which, he trusted, far exceeded any licence he might have allowed himself in dealing with the question. He had charged the Government with shameless conduct, saying they that had created a new precedent in our history, and were giving birth to a privilege for which there was no parallel in our administrative annals.

MR. BONAR LAW: I beg pardon; I never said that.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: Perhaps the hon. Member did not say that, but his argument largely tended to encourage the opinion and certainly, as he understood, the argument of some hon.

Members, and particularly of his hon. and learned friend behind him, went quite that length. Of course it was quite right that he should, in this matter, have been chosen as the head and front of an offending Administration, and that the political jeremiads they had heard on the moral infirmity which had been, as their critics thought, exhibited by His Majesty's Government should have derived point and piquancy by their personal application to him. His right hon. and learned friend the Member for Dublin University had told them that no blandishments of office, however alluring, would ever have induced him to be a party to the conduct with which he reproached the Government. He believed that statement was absolutely sincere, and he believed so the more readily because it was clear that the right hon. and learned Gentleman had entirely forgotten the circumstances under which this Bill was introduced. Let him remind the right hon. and learned Gentleman and the House. He pointed out the grievance which this Bill was intended to remedy. He showed that the funds of unions had been held liable for the unauthorised acts of their officials, and he clearly indicated to the House two remedies which he thought might be applicable to that condition of things. The first remedy was to amend the law of agency so that no chargeability should arise except in connection with the authoritative Acts of the executive bodies which controlled the affairs of trade unions. The other method was to restore to these unions the immunity which, for thirty years, they had enjoyed in general legal estimation and which, according to the decision of the Court of Appeal, they had enjoyed as a legal right. Well, he expressed to the House with candour and with frankness, as he trusted those who held his office always would do, what he thought were the objections to which the second of these proposals was open, and he did not recede from any of the observations he then made. He still thought that the first method, which was that embodied in this clause, would have been the preferable mode to adopt, but surely, as he pointed out then, it was a question for the consideration of the House. He declared that while these were his views he was no pedant. He was prepared to accept and consider the clearly expressed opinion of the House in reference to the alternative proposal, and if he might invite hon. Members opposite to look at this question for one moment in a sense of fairness, was it not eminently a question for the House? Was not the Parliament of 1906 just as competent to continue the charter which the Parliament of 1871 created as the earlier Parliament was to create it? If, in the Parliament of 1871, special treatment was accorded to trade unions, if the charter which was described by hon. Gentlemen opposite as a charter of privilege was then given to them as the Court of Appeal held and as universal legal opinion held, and if for thirty years they had not abused the trust placed in their hands, surely it was quite competent for the Parliament of 1906 to continue that privilege for an indefinite future. The House had, he thought, settled that question. In every quarter of the House—the benches behind the Government, the benches below the gangway on this side, the benches below the gangway on that side—there had been as strong a body of opinion in favour of this solution of the question as had been expressed in any previous Parliament in regard to any proposed legislation brought before them. What was suggested that he ought to have done or that the Government ought to have done? They ought to have said, "There is the grievance, it shall either be treated according to our methods or left an open sore." Well, to adopt such a course would be to be guilty of the pedantry he sought to repudiate. If the grievance, if the sore was there, surely the true and statesmanlike mode of treating this question was to say: "We will adopt the method which we do not think is the best, but which is the method the House, as a whole, is prepared to accept, and which will put an end to the grievance." He supposed he was guilty of weakness. He supposed the Government were chargeable with weakness. But which was the true weakness—a weak obstinacy which adhered to an original and impracticable proposal, or the assumption of a position which involved them in sitting and listening to reproaches which were heaped upon them, and of change of mind, of policy, and of vacillation. Of the two forms of weakness he, for one, would rather be charged with the weakness of honestly stating that he preferred one method, but that he abandoned it in favour of another method because the latter was preferred by the House as a whole, and that the object of their policy was the statesmanlike object of going as far as legislation could fairly and properly go in order to meet the views of those in whose interest it was proposed.

*MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that as one of the wild animals who previously had been considered a very mild person he ventured to say a few words in this most interesting debate.

MR. BONAR LAW: I did not apply the term "wild animal" to the hon. Member.

*MR. SHACKLETON said he was quite certain of that. The hon. Gentleman had not been a trade union leader. If he had been he would know that they had to hear harder words than those. Might he, on behalf of his friends who sat beside him, and his colleagues on the other side—for whom, including his right hon. friend the Member for Morpeth, he spoke in this matter, saying they were agreed in accepting the proposition which the Government had brought forward to cover the grievance which they felt? There was no dissension in their ranks in this matter. Might he say also how thankful they were for the manly speech they had just listened to? He honestly thought the Attorney-General had shown courage in facing this matter as he had done. They were told that there was to be protection for the wrong-doer, and that the policy of getting at trade union funds instead of at the guilty person was the preferable one. He was speaking for forty odd trade union officials in this House, and he could say that they felt that the best course to prevent breaches of the law was to make the men who broke the law responsible individually. As he had said in Committee he said now, whether it was a man put on picket duty or a member of the Executive Committee of his union who wilfully broke the law, he ought to bear the responsibility for his action rather than put the responsibility on irresponsible men. That was the policy of the Conservative Government in 1875; it was the policy of the Liberal Government in 1871, and he, and those for whom he spoke, believed that it ought to be the policy of the Liberal Government to-day. It had been suggested that by this action they were asking for more than the ante-Taff Vale position. The right hon. Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, had said that the ante-Taff Vale position was fully understood; that there was no dispute amongst learned gentlemen as to what it was until the House of Lords' decision; but then the right hon. Gentleman went on to make the statement which showed what the cleavage was between hon. Members on the two sides of the House—that "in some measure" that position ought to be restored. The Labour Party were against those who only desired to restore the ante-Taff-Vale position "in some measure." Was it a noble thing for any hon. Members to take advantage of a legal decision to whittle down the rights which members of trade unions had enjoyed for thirty years? There was no reason why the full position should not be restored to them. On all hands there was no question as to the position the trade unionist had held and the way they had used it. As he had already stated, it had been said that they were claiming something more than the ante-Taff-Vale position, but he distinctly maintained that they did not ask to be relieved of any liabilities imposed by Section 9 of the Act of 1871. On all commercial transactions and in everything connected with property they said that the ordinary law should be applied to them. The hon. Member for Dulwich had referred to the shipbuilding dispute on the Clyde. As to the facts stated by the hon. Member he was not able to judge. The hon. Gentleman had said that skilled men employed in Clyde yards earned more in a day than the unskilled in a week. That might be some reflection on their employers, but let him say that the unskilled men in that district might have been somewhat to blame, because he was informed that they were practically unorganised. The hon. Member, while stating the large amount earned by the skilled workmen, did not refer to the deductions which had to be paid out of their wages to certain men who worked for them. The full facts on that point ought to be known. However, he would insist that it was to the interest of these unskilled workmen that this Bill should become law; and he did not think that the hon. Gentleman would have the support of the unskilled workmen in opposing it. As a matter of fact, the Trade Union Congress was composed of almost equal numbers of skilled and unskilled workmen, and if any class of workmen wanted this Bill more than another it was the unskilled men. Indeed, they had suffered more from the Taff Vale decision than the skilled men. Again, they were told that the employers did not want to do illegal things; that they did not want the privilege which this Bill conferred upon them of being put on an equal footing with their workmen. In his opinion there ought to be equal privileges, but things were done every day by the employers which, if done by workmen, would soon be stopped. What was the position of the men? They could not do things in secret; everything was necessarily open when 50,000 or more men were involved. Everything was speedily made known to the employers by their agents or others; but the employers worked in secret. Acts which trade unions were prevented from doing by law to-day were being committed by employers. He did not say by every employer. He had a document in his hand which proved that such was the case, in one instance at any rate. This was a letter from the Employers' Association in the engineering trade to the secretaries of local associations in reference to a strike of moulders in the Halifax districts and was as follows—

> "Dear Sir,—A strike of iron moulders in the Halifax district is on. The iron moulders recently gave notice of a demand for an advance in wages of 2s. a week. A conference was held and the workmen decided to cease work on the expiry of their notice. They have done so. The wages rate is 38s. per week. Signed, Thomas Biggot, Secretary."

The letter itself was just an ordinary letter of advice, but there was a memorandum which stated—

> "When writing your members it is desirable to advise them of the strike in general terms, and a list of strikers should be enclosed without remark."

And that memorandum was not attached to the letter in the ordinary way. Then there was a list of the names of the 170 men affected sent all over the country. Not one of these men need apply for work anywhere. There was no law to stop that sort of thing, for it was done secretly. When these men applied for work they were asked what their name was and where they came from, and then were informed that no workmen were wanted. That meant that if they did not accept the employers' terms the men must starve. Let there be no mistake about the attitude of the Labour Party. They believed that the Government position was the right one. It was a question of method—a method which organised labour had adopted after long years of consideration and experience. If the Government had seen their way to listen to the practical side of the question as well as the legal, and if the House decided in their favour, who could complain? He wanted the House to remember that practically this measure had been passed after Second Reading debate on three occasions, and always by increasing majorities—on the last occasion by a majority of 350. The Labour Party were going to support the Government in the position they had taken up in every sense of the word.

*MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) said that they had heard a deal of declamation on the other side of the House about trade unions being in a privileged position. It occured to him therefore to ask if they approved of the existence of trade unions or would suppress them if they could? If the value of trade unions was admitted, it was even waste of time to declaim about privilege; it would be more useful to turn their attention to the real practical point what privileges they were to have. Trade unions were of necessity privileged institutions. Under the ordinary law they would be illegal associations; and they could have no existence unless special legislation were passed in their interests authorising their existence. Indeed the very Amendment of the hon. Member was one which would place trade unions in a privileged position, setting them as regards the law of agency in a position more advantageous than any other body or person. No doubt the clause of the hon. Member was drawn upon an intelligible principle, viz., that a principal was responsible for the acts of his agent, and they had heard read out with considerable unction the words of the Royal Commissioners, in which they pointed out the universal application of that doctrine. That doctrine was perfectly proper but it depended solely upon considerations of public policy, because nobody could suggest that a principal who had instructed his agent that he was not to perform a particular act was morally responsible for the act of that agent if he went against his instructions. He claimed in support of this Bill the declarations of the ex-Colonial Secretary that he only wished to see trade unions made responsible when they were morally responsible. Could it be said that the member of a trade union numbering many thousands was morally responsible for every act of the committee of that body, acting in defiance of the conditions under which they were appointed? It came to be simply a question of public policy, and it might well be that in the case of trade unions, stronger considerations might arise which might make it proper in their case to depart from the general rule and not make them liable for the acts of the Committee. There was a great deal in what had been said by the hon. Member for Clitheroe that they were much more likely to get the affairs of trade unions conducted without rashness if the individuals who took action were made personally responsible, instead of being put in the position of feeling that they had at their back the whole of the funds of the society and could fall back upon them. It seemed to him, however, that the argument which could be drawn from public policy was an extremely strong one in favour of the Government proposals. If members of trade unions found that their contributions were, owing to rash acts of the officials, diverted from the purpose for which they were contributed, *e.g.*, were paid away in damages instead of being applied to their legitimate objects, they would refuse to join the unions. And if they desired, as he did, to see trade unions strong, it seemed to him a necessary condition that they should free the trade union funds from liability for wrongful acts of the Committee. On the whole he thought the proposal of the Government was the best.

Question put, "That the clause be read a second time."

The House divided:—Ayes 79; Noes, 372. (Division List No. 363.)

AYES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laur. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (DublinS
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Fredk. Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair

Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, HnW.C.B(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J Williams (Devonp't
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Rt.HnSirJT(Cheshire
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.Pancras,W
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex E Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman,Thomas Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwch
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, JM(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh, Chas.(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip

Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Chas. Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) in moving "that this Act shall not extend to Ireland," said he was not acting in any spirit of hostility to the trade unions. It was a common device of hon. Gentlemen opposite when conducting elections to pose as the champions of the Party of Labour, and to say that the Unionist Party was not. That he denied. He maintained that the Party to which he belonged had by their legislation proved the greater friend of the Labour Party. He was glad to believe that it was the recognised view throughout the country that trade unions in the past had proved most beneficial institutions. He would be sorry if in the future they should not continue to be so. He was in a position to say, in connection with the industry with which he was connected, that the moderate and beneficial influence exerted by the leaders of the trade unions had led to strikes being avoided again and again. If this Bill ever came into force, the leaders of the trade unions, he feared, would place themselves in a dangerous position with regard to their followers, and they would not be able to exercise that pressure on those for whom they were acting that hon. Members below the gangway had been able to exercise upon the Government. He thought this Act should not extend to Ireland. He did not believe that there was a universal demand in Ireland that this Act should come into operation there. It was obvious that "trade dispute" was a very wide term, and with regard to Ireland, special difficulties might arise. He could conceive an interpretation of "trade disputes" which might lead to an accentuation of the difficulties between landlord and tenant, a result which he was sure that no one in the House desired to see. Another most important point was that there was a system, which he believed was only in vogue in Ireland, known by the name of "boycotting." It was perfectly clear that if this Act came into force in Ireland those who engaged in boycotting would be immune from the law. That would be a most anomalous position, and although he was sure that hon. Members in this House would not, it could not be denied that there were men who would take advantage of it if they found that they would be immune from the law, and that the Act extended to boycotting. He therefore hoped that the Attorney-General would see his way to accept this clause, although he (Viscount Castlereagh) was not in a position to exercise that pressure which his hon. friends below the Gangway had exercised with such success.

New clause—

"This Act shall not extend to Ireland."—(*Viscount Castlereagh.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said it was not often that a layman desired to take part in a debate on a lawyers' Bill. But this Bill, though it was of a technical character, raised questions of principle affecting the fundamental rights of citizenship. He did not propose to deal with larger questions but to confine himself to the new clause. This clause which stood on the paper in the name of the Attorney-General declared that, "in this Act and in the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875, the expression 'trade dispute' means any dispute which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of employment, or with the conditions of labour of any workman." It seemed to him that the whole complexion of the Bill was altered by that clause. It was no longer a mere Trade Disputes Bill. It would also embrace in its scope agrarian combinations in Ireland. It would affect the relations between landlord and tenant indirectly in this way, that any person employed as a labourer by an obnoxious landlord or an unpopular tenant, would lose the protection of the law he had hitherto enjoyed, and the door would be open to every form of boycotting and intimidation. Those who remembered the history of the Land League and who lived through those old bad days would remember how the League always claimed that it should be treated as a form of trade union, that agrarian warfare should be regarded merely as a trade dispute, and the Plan of Campaign as a strike. This Bill would arm an agrarian league with almost precisely the same powers as were exercised by the Land League. Nor must it be forgotten that in Ireland boycotting was not merely a rare and desperate expedient to be resorted to in highly exceptional circumstances. It had become a policy and principle of action. It was a blight upon honest industry, nor had a more terrible engine of oppression ever been invented. It was quite true that it had fallen into disuse for some years past, but quite recently it had been revived again in the case of the grass lands in the west of Ireland. Could there be a more unfortunate thing at the moment when the Government hoped to effect a peaceable land settlement in Ireland, than to bring into operation a law which might prove so dangerous an instrument in the hands of an excitable peasantry? He was the only Unionist Member now in the House who had lived in the south of Ireland through the days from 1879 to 1887 when the Land League exercised their fatal power. He had lived side by side with men, rich and poor, who had groaned under that tyranny, and yet were silent, voiceless, and helpless to throw it off. He knew the phrases under which boycotting was veiled, "exclusive dealing," "peaceful persuasion," "moral pressure"; but he also knew the realities—the social ostracism, the hunted life, the ruined business, the maimed cattle, the children debarred access to school, the living refused the necessaries of life, the dead denied a coffin and a grave. [A NATIONAL MEMBER: "Repeat that in Kerry."] He had said the same thing in Kerry when it was more dangerous to say it than it was now, and he would repeat it in Kerry to-morrow if he were there.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): It is a slander.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): It is worse than a slander; it's a lie. ["Oh, oh."]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The expression which fell from the hon. Member for Cork and which reached my ears I think he must know is not permissible. I ask him to withdraw it.

MR. FLYNN: In deference to your ruling, Sir, I withdraw it, whatever my opinions are.

*MR. BUTCHER continuing, submitted that it would be a disastrous lesson to Ireland that one class should claim immunity from the law, and be free to oppress all others, and that without the risk of a halfpenny of damages. In conclusion, he remarked that it was a fine prelude to the Home Rule Bill for the Government to bring in such a proposal as this. Was it not a sinister comment on their intention to govern Ireland according to Irish ideas?

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said it was not unnatural that after the speech delivered by the hon. Member he should want to say a few words. The hon. Member's speech had come as a rude shock to him—that the hon. Member on that occasion should lay out for himself the utterly unworthy role of standing up as an Irishman and slandering his own people. What was the House to understand from the speech of the hon. Member? His speech was a prelude to a possible discussion on Home Rule next year. There was no reality in his speech except that apparently he desired now at this time of day to renew the slanders which had been dead for twenty-five years. He drew a picture which never was true, even twenty-five years ago and which, so far as the present state of things was concerned, was a ludicrous travesty of the real facts and a gross slander upon the people whom he had spoken of as savages.

*MR. BUTCHER: I have said nothing of the kind. [Cries of "Withdraw."]

MR. F. E. SMITH: The hon. Member for Waterford having imputed words to the hon. Member for Cambridge University which were not uttered by him, ought not those words to be withdrawn?

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member is mistaken. The hon. and learned Member was only drawing an inference from what was said, and did not use the words as a quotation.

MR. JOHN REDMOND continuing, said the hon. Member had said that his fellow-countrymen were guilty of mutilation of cattle and persecuted in life and even in death. If that was not a description of a savage he did not know what it was. The hon. Member had said he lived among these savages in the county of Kerry that he had lived on good terms with these people who, although they differed altogether from his political views and creed, had treated him with courtesy and neighbourly good feeling. For the hon. Gentleman to come down to this House and speak of them as though they were no better than savages, was a disgraceful and unworthy part for him to play.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked the Speaker if it was in order for one hon. Gentleman to charge another hon. Member with playing a disgraceful part. If that language was allowed to go on he did not know where it would end.

*MR. SPEAKER: I would not be quite certain that the hon. Member has not used the word himself. Whether that be so or not, I do not see any reason to call upon the hon. Member to withdraw.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I wish to explain that I have never used the word "disgraceful" as applied to an hon. Member. I may use it in future though.

MR. JOHN REDMOND, continuing, said he could conceive no conduct more unworthy and disgraceful than for a man to come to this House as the hon.

Member did from Ireland, which he knew was in a state of profound peace, and where he knew there was less crime than in Scotland, England, or Wales, and endeavour to prevent the House giving to the people of Ireland the same rights and privileges as to the people of England on the ground that the former were guilty of crime and outrage and the conduct of savages. It would be bad enough in an English Member who did not quite know what he was talking about but when it was done by an Irishman who said that he lived in the country, and who therefore knew how utterly false it was, his conduct in his (Mr. Redmond's) opinion was unworthy and disgraceful. He had risen simply for the purpose of making a protest against this prelude to the discussions that would be raised on the question of Irish reform that might be introduced by the Government in the coming year. This was the plan of campaign that was to be set on foot to raise again the base passions and absurd calumnies of twenty-five years ago. He was glad to say that a change had come over public opinion and public knowledge since then in reference to Ireland, and this plan of campaign would fail. He wondered what the hon. Gentleman the Member for Belfast would say? He represented the workmen of Belfast. He had been returned by those who constituted the trade unions of Belfast. Was he going to join in this attempt to deprive the workers of Belfast or Dublin or anywhere else of the rights and privileges which the House was about to confer upon workmen in England? This cry had come from an Irishman who could not get a seat in Ireland, and a noble Lord who sat for an English constituency. It would not appeal to representatives of workers even who sat as Unionists in this House. The Irish Party had done their best in the past for working men in this country, and he was sure that English working men representatives would not tolerate this attempt to deprive Irish working men of the privileges which they were getting, especially when that attempt was made under cover of a calumny such as they had just heard.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not rise to touch upon the question whether or not trade unions, strictly so-called, in Ireland ought, or ought not, to come within the provisions of this Bill. That was not the point of his hon. friend's speech. They all knew, and regretted, that in Ireland the industrial element was comparatively undeveloped as compared with England. It was true that his hon. friend used strong language, that he painted his picture in no soft or attractive colours. But the question was whether the picture he painted was or was not true to the facts of Irish life, or some aspects of Irish life in the memory of even the younger Members of the House. He confessed that he had no aquaintance with what was going on in Ireland at the present time. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: You never knew.] But he was told by gentlemen who had higher pretensions to knowledge of Ireland than he claimed that there were parts in which at all events some of the charges levelled against it might unhappily have some foundation in fact. [NATIONALIST cries of "No, no."] That was a subject, however, on which he thought the ordinary machinery of Question and Answer in the House would be capable of eliciting information from the Minister responsible for Irish Government; but that the picture painted by his hon. friend had been true in the past was absolutely certain. ["No," and NATIONALIST cries of "Piggott" and "Sheridan."] No cool observer would ever doubt the truth of that picture, but that it was universal over Ireland at one time neither he nor his hon. friend would assert. There were, however, large parts of Ireland where the picture was absolutely true in all its lineaments. He firmly believed that there had been an enormous improvement in the last twenty-five years, and he believed that it had been steadily going on. He was one of those optimists who thought that the progress was not going to stop within our lifetime, but that the time would come when that crimelessness which in certain respects the hon. Member rightly claimed for the agricultural districts in Ireland, would extend to all matters of dispute between Irishmen, and that the conflicts among the different classes in the community would not be sullied by the crime which had too often marked them in the past. In this Bill, however, the House had to consider what the condition of Ireland was and recently had been; and if it were true, as he firmly believed, that such deeds as his hon. friend described had indeed been committed, that the condition of society he had painted existed, ought not the House to think twice, aye, many times, before it extended to a country which in these respects had shown itself less capable of self-control, less capable of dealing with these class difficulties and trade contests, what the Government themselves admitted to be special legislation, in favour of these organised bodies to whom the practice of crimes in the past might have been attributed ? The hon. Member for Waterford seemed to think that this debate had some connection, remote but real, with the controversies which doubtless this House would be plunged into next session, if the Government brought forward their promised legislation with reference to Home Rule. But this was wholly alien from those controversies. Those controversies would be long and bitter enough when they arose. Let the House not anticipate them. What they had to deal with now was a subject of great difficulty and complexity. But he sincerely thought that if this Bill was really going to give these agrarian organisations in Ireland the immunities or the privileges which they would have abused in the past, and, knowing what they did of their general character, for which there was no security in the Bill for the future, then the House was really facing perils of which they had had no experience in this country in the last twenty years. In these circumstances not only was the form of the Amendment justified, but the speech with which his hon. friend supported it was not open to the charge of exaggeration and error which, in vehement terms, had been brought against him by the hon. and learned Member.

*Sir JOHN WALTON said that an extraordinary Amendment had been supported by extraordinary arguments leading to a remarkable debate. It had been pointed out that if this Amendment was adopted the trade unionists of Ireland would not enjoy the advantages which were enjoyed by trade unionists in this country. The hon. Member said that that was not what he wanted; but on the assumption that the Bill was to apply to agricultural combinations the hon. Member had indulged his imagination in drawing a picture of the disastrous consequences that would result if the Land League were endowed with immunity and armed with the powers which this legislation conferred. He thought that the hon. Member might have taken the trouble to ascertain what was the definition of a trade union. The Bill did not propose to alter the definition of a trade union, nor did it intend to enlarge the scope of trade disputes as always understood and applied by the Courts in this country and in Ireland. The definition of trade union appeared in the Act of 1876 and was adopted in the present Bill. It had never been suggested that agricultural combinations should come within the scope of that definition, or that they should be entitled to the privileges which this legislation conferred. He had framed a definition of a trade dispute which was clearly confined to the disputes between workmen and their masters, and could not be stretched to include a combination of tenants where the question in dispute might be the terms of the tenancy or the system of holding the land.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said that to cut Ireland out of the operation of this clause would be a very serious injustice indeed to the trade unionists of that country. It had been suggested that the Bill, if it became law, would apply to various combinations of men, and that under it there would be crimes done in Ireland such as the mutilation of cattle. He would point out that the Bill did not authorise crime; and even if it should extend to combinations of farmers, he would say that it might be gathered from the debate that took place a few evenings ago that farmers were not without need of the benefit of protection from the landlord class. Labour Members could not possibly vote against the inclusion of Ireland within the operation of the Bill. The Leader of the Nationalist Party and his colleagues had at great inconvenience on a previous occasion come to the House to support the Labour Party, and it would be an act of the utmost ingratitude on the part of Labour Members not to support them on the present occasion.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) said he did not understand that any combination like the Land League would come under the

Bill, but he did understand that there were tens of thousands of working men in the north of Ireland who had a right to come within its provisions. Even though he was the only Ulster representative who would stand up for that right, he was quite prepared to do so. He was not directly or indirectly connected with any trade union, but he endeavoured to represent the working people of Belfast. Hon. Members who represented other constituencies in the north of Ireland would not contradict the statement that there was no meeting which could be held in the north of Ireland which would support the Amendment now before the House. If the inclusion of Ireland in this Bill would lead to serious boycotting, intimidation, the maiming of cattle, and the giving of power to organisations which would abuse that power, there might be something to be said for the argument that Ireland should be excluded, but that was not what the Bill was going to do. The House had it on the authority of the Attorney-General, who had just spoken, that it did not give that power. He supposed that any hon. Member had a right to change his mind. He did not claim to be an infallible representative, and if he had done wrong and saw the folly of it he considered that the more honourable thing to do was to adopt the right position rather than to continue doing wrong. He opposed this Amendment from another point of view, namely, as a Unionist. Why should not Ireland have to a share in the benefits which were given this country? If Members were true to their Unionist principles how could they justify the exclusion of Ireland from the Bill. Before he rose to speak it was suggested to him by the hon. Member for North Down that he should go to the other side of the House.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I rise to order. The hon. Member for South Belfast says the Bill does not deal with boycotting. If the hon. Member with all his knowledge of Ireland could say that, I think he should go across the floor of the House to do so——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to interpolate a speech.

MR. SLOAN said the Attorney-General had stated that organisations in connection with land agitation did not come within the scope of the Bill; why, then, should the trade unionists of Ireland be excluded? One great reason why he would not cross the floor of the House was that there was no room on that side. He was sent to the House as a Unionist in 1902 and 1906, and he did not see why he should change his seat. Of course if there was a memorial signed by the Opposition asking him to take a seat elsewhere than on the Unionist side of the House, he should try to find a seat somewhere else, but it would not be on the other side. He felt his position very keenly, because he realised that the position of affairs in Ireland was not satisfactory from the official Unionist point of view, and they did not wish to give any power to anybody else. If any Member representing an Ulster constituency would prove that the Bill would give powers facilitating boycotting and intimidation and all that kind of thing, he was prepared to turn round and say he would support the Amendment. But the fact was, that the Bill did not do this. He represented a great mass of public opinion in the north of Ireland and he had no hesitation in giving and he would be able to justify the vote he was about to give.

SIR E. CARSON did not suppose anybody could argue that so far as trade unions were concerned they could be placed on a different footing in Ireland as compared with England. He knew perfectly well that his noble friend who moved this Amendment never had less intention of opposing what were called the ordinary trade union purposes, or of suggesting that trade unionists in Ireland should be put in a different position from the trade unionists in this country. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh."] Hon. Members opposite might think otherwise if they liked. He did not know by what other means than such an Amendment his noble friend could have got from the Attorney-General the very satisfactory statement which he had made, that it was not the intention of the Government that the provisions of the law in relation to conspiracy, boycotting, and other matters which were legalised by the section were not to apply to such cases as had ordinarily arisen in Ireland, viz., questions in relation to disputes between landlord and tenant, and the respective organisations which governed those disputes. That was exactly the declaration which his noble friend wanted in moving this Amendment. It was extremely satisfactory that the declaration should have been made. Whether the Amendment to be proposed by the Attorney-General would really carry out his intention was another question, because he must not suppose that the matter was so very simple. Even if landlord and tenant did not come within the scope of the Bill, the definition would not cover some of the cases that arose in Ireland. It did not rest in the action of landlord and tenant. It went into the case of men employed by shopkeepers in towns. The next question was whether the broad words set down must not be utilised to protect organisations to which shopmen belonged. They might think that in regard to a man who was working for a boycotted landlord, or a man who had taken an evicted farm, they had a right to lay down the conditions of labour for him, which brought the organisation within the meaning of the Bill, though it was intended for a different class of cases and not that particular class. He took the assurance of the hon. and learned Gentleman that if any Amendment were necessary it would be made, and under those circumstances he asked his noble friend to be satisfied with the statement of the Attorney-General.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH asked leave to withdraw the proposed new clause. [Cries of "No."]

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said he wished to join the hon. Member for South Belfast in saying that the working-men of Ireland had cause to desire the application of this Bill to that country. He could not suppose that the House would accept the Amendment which, he believed, had not been brought forward for the purpose of dealing with the question raised in the Bill, but to raise a discussion on the relationship between landlord and tenant. The Amendment had been used for Party purposes and to embitter the feeling between the democracy and the "landocracy" of Ireland. What the hon. Member for Cambridge University had stated was a travesty of what existed in Ireland, and he expressed his surprise and regret that the Leader of the Opposition should have lent himself to endorse the language employed. He went further and said that the hon. Member for Cambridge University by his statements had badly repaid the kindness with which he was received by the people of Kerry, amongst whom he lived.

*MR. SPEAKER said that the hon. Member's remarks were not relevant to the clause under discussion.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI said that the trade unions of Ireland and the Trades Congress of Ireland, which embraced Catholics and Protestants, Nationalists and Unionists, had made a universal demand that this Bill should pass, and that the same immunity should be given them as before the Taff Vale decision. He congratulated the hon. Member for South Belfast on the manly course which he had taken on this matter, a course which would receive the endorsement of the workmen in that great city.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) thought he was right in saying that the hon. Member in moving this Amendment had no intention of depriving the trade unionists of Ireland of any right that was to be given to the trade unionists of this country. He might say that since the Attorney-General had spoken the air had been cleared to a considerable extent; but any one who denied that boycotting in all its cruel and horrible forms existed in Ireland at the present moment——

*MR. SPEAKER said that after the statement of the Attorney-General the debate ought to be limited to the real point at issue.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said that the Attorney-General had told the House that, so far as he could see, the clause which he proposed would not touch the case which the Unionist Members from Ireland had in their mind. The right hon. Member for Dublin University had gone some way to accept that assurance, but with the greatest respect for the legal attainments of both hon. and learned Gentlemen he had some doubt in his mind whether an attempt would not be shortly made to boycott in Ireland under the shield of this clause. He appealed to the Attorney-General to make it perfectly certain before the Bill left this House that the cases which the Unionist Members had in their mind would be effectually and beyond any possibility of doubt excluded from the Bill.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said he represented a large number of working-men in his constituency who were concerned to see that this Act in all its aspects should be extended to Ireland; and he regretted that this Amendment had been supported by an hon. Gentleman who came from county Kerry.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said that they all accepted the statement of the Attorney-General that this Bill applied only to trade unions and would not apply to what was called agrarian matters. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment had said that once assured of that he would wish to withdraw the clause, but he would ask the Attorney-General to consider whether the words in the Bill might not be open to misconstruction in Ireland. He reminded the Attorney-General that Clauses 1, 2 and 3 did not refer to trade unions at all, but to any individual acting in the course of a trade dispute; and it might conceivably be argued that they applied to agrarian matters as well as to others. He hoped the Attorney-General would reconsider those words before the Bill finally left the House.

Question put

The House divided:—Ayes, 4; Noes, 289. (Division List No. 364.)

AYES.

Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Bull, Sir William James
Craik, Sir Henry
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh and Mr. John Ward.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Strond)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B.(H'xh'm
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets,SGeo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hn. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHnSirJ.T(Cheshire
Bryce,Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Castlereagh, Viscount
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Corbett,CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H(St Pancras,N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (LanarkGovan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.

Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfed John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accr'ngt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes F. (Notts Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'ster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'ra'y Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (RoscommonN
O'Mally, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Phillips, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Br'df'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (M'rth'r
Thompson, J. W. H. (S'm'rs't, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Turnour, Viscount
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James, Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
White, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'th'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W (Worcestersh N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. FLYNN rose to a point of order. He wished to ask the Deputy-Speaker whether the following procedure was in order. A clause had been moved on the Report stage of this Bill, and the hon. Members who moved and seconded it had voted against it. Was that in accordance with the rules of the House?

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr. EMMOTT) said he was not present during the whole of the debate, but he understood that the noble Lord asked leave to withdraw his Amendment, and that permission was refused. Under the circumstances the noble Lord's action was in order.

SIR F. BANBURY, in moving to omit Clause 1, said it was an objectionable clause in the form in which it was introduced, but with the alteration which had been made in it at the instance of the Attorney-General, he thought it was a great deal worse. As the clause stood at the present moment, it dealt not only with a dispute between a trade union and employers, but with everybody who might be concerned in a dispute. The only argument he had heard in its favour was the change which was supposed to have been made inthe law by the Taff Vale decision, and in one or two other cases, and it had been argued that unless this clause was put in, trade unions would be in a different position as compared with their state before those decisions were pronounced. He had already said that the clause went further than was either desirable or necessary to put trade unions in the position that they occupied before the Taff Vale decision; and even if it was correct, which he disputed, that that decision made a new law, or altered the law as it existed, this clause, in addition to affecting members of trade unions and employers, dealt with other people. It had been said that it was a great disadvantage that the Bill treated only two classes of people, viz., the members of trade unions and the employers; but, on the other hand, it had also been argued that because one evil existed in regard to trade unions it was not necessary to make another evil in regard to employers. If it was desired to remedy one evil in regard to trade unions it should have been specified and dealt with. It had been said over and over again that this Bill was necessary because of the decision in the Taff Vale case, but that assertion was not correct, as indeed the Majority Report of the Royal Commission stated. He would not go into the question of what a trade dispute meant, but let them take it that there was a dispute about wages in a colliery, and a trade union influenced workers in other collieries to break their contracts. The result might be that one or two mines would be flooded and damage to the extent of many thousands of pounds done, and yet there would be no remedy against anybody. That seemed to him to be an absurd position to place people in. If it were said that trade unions were not likely to do such a thing he would recall to the memory of the House the very bad case of "Quinn *v.* Leatham." It would no doubt be urged that, after all, this Clause was merely to put combinations of two or more men into the position of one person. Upon that question there were some very interesting statements in the Report of the Royal Commission. Lord Macnaghten said—

> "A man may resist without much difficulty a wrongful act by one individual, but it is a a very different thing when one man has to defend himself against men combined to do him wrong"

Nothing could express more clearly in a few words the effect of this clause. It would enable a combination to attack an individual and do him wrong, the combination being so large that it would be absolutely impossible for the man to resist it, and they were to be free from any responsibility for their wrong doing. The hon. Member for Clitheroe remarked that he wished to make responsible the men who broke the law. If that were so, he asked the hon. Member to vote with him against this clause. He denied that by so doing the hon. Member would in any way destroy the principle which he desired to enforce. It might be urged that if any criminal offence was committed under this clause those who were guilty of it were liable, but there were many offences which although not criminal might inflict great injury. It was not a criminal offence that was committed in the case of "Quinn *v.* Leatham" but that action inflicted great damage not only on the employer but the employed. He pointed out to the hon. Member for Clitheroe, with regard to a man's being responsible for his wrong doing, that if this clause was omitted Clause 4 would still remain, and therefore he apprehended that the hon. Member would agree that this clause should be omitted. Another point to which he desired to draw attention was that this clause, as proposed to be amended, would even allow boycotting. It would allow anybody to do what they liked so long as they did not commit a criminal offence. He could not believe that that was the intention of the Government, and therefore he trusted hon. Members opposite would for once take courage and agree with him that this clause was not necessary for the object they had in view; that it was wrong and therefore ought to be omitted. There were of course Amendments on the Paper which if accepted, would make further alteration in the clause, but in his opinion those Amendments would not improve it so far in the right direction as the omission of the clause. Its omission would go far in the direction of removing, though it would not entirely satisfy those who thought this Bill was wrong, the fear in their minds that not only trade unions were to be exempted from the law, but that anyone who chose to combine with another and carry that combination into trade disputes would also be exempt. He hoped the hon and learned Solicitor-General would assure him that he had made a mistake in regard to this, though he did not see how that could be possible, but it would give him great pleasure to be assured upon that point. If they were going to try and maintain law and order in the complex state of society in which we lived, it was necessary, if two or more were going to combine together for the purpose of injuring a third party, that that third party should have a legal remedy. If the clause was only to apply to trade unions it was doubly necessary to be careful what they did. He appealed to the House; he appealed to the nation at large, not to allow this clause to be incorporated in the Bill. He did not believe it could be seriously argued that large and powerful bodies like trade unions should be allowed to use the funds at their disposal in the way in which they would be able to do if the clause became law. They could do it now indirectly. They need not say ostentatiously or publicly that such a thing should be done, but they could give hints to other people and combine together and do a great amount of injury to others, and they would be assisted in doing that injury by the large funds subscribed, as he thought, for an entirely different purpose by people who lived in all parts of the United Kingdom, and who therefore could not control their action. This clause would allow them to take away a man's business, and in that way destroy his means of livelihood. All that could be done if no remedy was provided under the law. He could not believe that such a great change was ever seriously contemplated, and if the Government yielded to pressure, in their more sober moments they would regret it. He hoped at any rate with regard to the first clause they would not insist that it should stand part of the Bill. He begged to move.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) formally seconded the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, to leave out Clause 1."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the clause proposed to be left out, stand part of the Bill."

SIR W. ROBSON reminded the hon. Baronet that the clause was one which was agreed to by nearly all his political friends, and was recommended by the Commission appointed by the Government of which the hon. Baronet was a strenuous supporter. The clause did no more than recommend a return to the state of the law before the Taff Vale decision.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 283; Noes, 35. (Division List No. 365)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B.(Hexh'm
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner, Rt.Hn. Sir J.T.(Ches.
Bryce, Rt.Hn. James (Aberdeen
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Chance, Frederick William

Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H. (S. Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (S'merset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner

Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rocehster)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'r'ry Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscom'n, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)

Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester
Phillipps, J. Wynford (Pem'ke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Br'df'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manch'ster
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lylulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (M'rth'r
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.

Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whitley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy W.
Valentia, Viscount

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Captain Craig.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'as a tort.'—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. F. E. SMITH moved to leave out of Clause 2 the words "one or more" and insert "a reasonable number." He said that when the Bill was in Committee Amendments were proposed which would have had the effect of introducing a numerical limitation in regard to the persons who would be entitled either on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union to attend in a peaceable manner for purposes of persuasion. One proposal, put forward by the hon. Member for Norwood, was that the number should be limited to three, but it was resisted by the Attorney-General, as was also a proposal to limit the number of men according to the circumstances of the place. The Attorney-General resisted the proposal of his hon. friend for Norwood upon one ground only, namely, that the Government, instead of employing a figure, were going to find an expression which would restrict this right, and they put in "peaceably and in a reasonable manner." He had cited some cases of strikes in which gross violence had been used by men who were doing the work of the trade unions, and he had further pointed out that the clause for which the Government had made themselves responsible permitted the picket not only to wait outside the exits and entrances of a place of business, but also to allow any number of men to attend for peaceful persuasion. At that point the Attorney-General had interrupted him by remarking that any number of men would not be reasonable within the meaning of this clause. On another occasion the Attorney-General, in reply to an Amendment to limit the number of men who might picket, said he did not assume that such extraordinary things as those which were put forward could possibly occur, and that he had no objection to say that the rights should be exercised in a reasonable manner and by a reasonable number. That statement, which was deliberately made, disarmed Amendments on the Opposition side and resulted in the saving of much time which would otherwise have been occupied in discussing the matter. Now the Attorney-General proposed to strike out the words "peaceably and in reasonable manner" after several assurances that the Government would preserve them. It was reasonable, according to the Attorney-General's own statement, to introduce some numerical limitation on the number of persons who should be at liberty to carry on this peaceful picketing unless the words which the

Government pledged themselves to maintain were kept in the Bill. On that point he would remind the hon. and learned Gentleman that there had recently been instances very comparable in their nature to those which he had cited on the previous occasion to show the desirability of having some numerical limitation. The last strike in Wales had been no exception to previous strikes in the abuses which had been directly occasioned by the very right sanctioned by the right hon. and learned Gentleman. They were told by hon. Gentlemen below the gangway that it did not matter whether they had a numerical qualification or not, because the members and officials of the trade union had something else to do with their time than go in large numbers to the houses of people for purposes of persuasion. But that opinion did not receive the slightest support from an examination of the history of recent industrial disputes. It was not what responsible leaders did but what members of trade unions who were not responsible did. He instanced the recent strike in Wales. The question was asked the other day as to whether one man had not been treated with great violence, terminating in his being thrown into the river. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil asked in a supplementary question whether it was not merely a practical joke. Whether that particular case could be substantiated or not, and whether, or, if it could be substantiated, it would be treated by the House of Commons as humour, there were many cases which could be substantiated which had never been contradicted by trade unionists in the Welsh dispute, although they had contradicted every case they could. His point was that the moment they allowed an indefinite number of men to go to the place where a man happened to be they called into existence a state of things from which outrage was sure to come. The hon. Member for Clitheroe had said to-night amid loud cheers from the Ministerial side, "Let the man who has done the wrong be made liable." He would ask them to address that counsel to the man who was frogmarched a quarter of a mile in his shirt by women and men in the recent strike, and who, if he could have discovered his assailant, might have been in a position to avail himself of the remedies. Was it to be denied that at the strike in the Rhondda Valley and other strikes a number of men had been deprived of the opportunity of forming a deliberate judgment and exercising a free choice of the circumstances under which they would sell their labour, because other men having no proportion to their number were allowed to "communicate information?" Let the House have done with the hypocricy of intending that there was a legal remedy for these acts of violence. The Amendment which he was moving was one which the Attorney-General if he had been consulted when the Bill was under discussion in Committee would have entirely concurred in. He would quote one more passage from a speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman in which the words were as clear and explicit as words could be, though he had led the House not to expect anything like permanency in his utterances. The hon. and learned Gentleman said he had no objection to say that the rights should be exercised in a reasonable manner. They had had one instance in which the Attorney-General after giving a definite expression of his views had changed his views. He admired both the dialectical skill and the eloquence with which the hon. and learned Gentleman explained his action in an exceedingly difficult case, and he would like to know his reason for changing his mind in regard to the subject now before the House.

MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) seconded the Amendment. It would be in the memory of all who heard the representation made by the Attorney-General at the time, that certain Amendments which were proposed might fairly be abandoned, as indeed they were, because it was, and would be, an essential provision of this Bill that picketing, offensive and injurious as many of them thought it, should at any rate be restricted and that the Bill would expressly provide that what was done would be done peaceably and in a reasonable manner. The Attorney-General ought not to be a party to the striking out of the words lower down, "peaceably and in a reasonable manner," for if they were left out the picketing need not be peaceful, and there would be no protec- tion given to the person who was going to suffer by picketing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot discuss at this stage an Amendment which the Attorney-General is going to move later on.

MR. CLAVELL SALTER: In that case I prefer to reserve what I have to say until the Amendment is proposed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'one or more' and to insert the words 'a reasonable number of.'"—(*Mr. F. E. Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) said he believed that organised labour, well directed, was a powerful lever for raising the condition of the people engaged in industrial pursuits, but there were many dangers in the abuse of such a system. It was really necessary to consider whether the trades which were doing most to compel the passing of this Bill would not really damage their cause by refusing to accept such an Amendment as was here proposed. He thought hon. Members should really consider whether they could not do something to prevent the disgraceful conflicts between labour and capital which had been ruining the country. He and his friends recognised that organised labour must have its officials and offices and representatives all over the country in order to be effective, but if it was to be a tyranny to compel a man to join a union when he did not wish to join, then it would be a backward step which would make the country less prosperous and life not worth living. An Englishman took pride in regarding his home as his castle, but if a hundred men were to be allowed to surround him and his wife and children while a trade dispute was going on could that be called peaceful persuasion? He had been a picket himself, and his method was to go with a fellow employer and put arguments before his comrade in order to show him why he should stand shoulder to shoulder with them. They did not bring fifty or a hundred men to that man's house to tyrannise over him. Was there no danger whatever that great organisations might be used tyrannically? Every man who would answer that question honestly would say that there was such a danger. If men did not exercise their good sense there would be such a tyranny as would make the country not worth living in.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said he could not complain of the criticisms of the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite. He quite agreed with the last speaker that in any clause legalising picketing they must, of course, adequately protect public order and individual liberty. And if the terms which he had introduced into this clause did not satisfactorily accomplish that object, then he admitted that he had failed in his object. He quite agreed that the clause as he proposed to amend it underwent a material change. The qualifications or conditions which were attached to the exercise of a right connected themselves with the method adopted of exercising that right. As the clause stood, it provided that the attendance on persons whom it was sought to persuade should be conducted "in a reasonable manner." When the matter was before the Committee it was quite true that suggestions were made in regard to the number of persons employed in picketing, and the hours chosen for that purpose. He thought the House would agree with him that if they attached conditions to the exercise of the right which they created, those conditions should be readily cognisable beforehand, and that there should be a certain uniform standard or measure by which the character and conduct of those engaged in picketing was to be judged. If the clause as it stood remained, he asked the House to consider for one moment the difficulties in which the trade unions would be placed. They might consider, supposing the clause contained the expression "in a reasonable manner," that the method of attendance was "reasonable," and that the manner they chose to adopt was a "reasonable manner," but the tribunal which was called upon afterwards to decide whether it was "reasonable" or not, might come to a diametrically opposite conclusion. They might have decisions as to what was "reasonable" as various as the tribunals invoked; and they were also face to face with the great danger that some juries might be so prejudiced against picketing operations by trade unions that any conduct of this kind for which they were responsible would meet with condemnation. There was some support for that view. Therefore, to frame a definition of a "reasonable manner" was, he doubted, a task to which the wit of man was not equal. The only other way to meet the difficulty was for him, if possible, to attach some test to the operation of picketing which would indirectly ensure that proper restrictive conditions should be observed. He believed that he had adopted a test which would entirely accomplish that result, and if it did not, then his efforts had been in vain. He had introduced later on in the clause the expression "peacefully," before the words "obtaining, or communicating information," and before the word "persuading." The result was that no picketing under the section would be lawful unless exercised for the sole purpose of "peaceful persuasion." The expression "peaceful persuasion" had been sneered at by an hon. Member; but surely there was no difficulty in understanding what was meant by that phrase. If men who had struck wished to induce others to join them they were entitled to wait upon them, and appeal to their reason, or, it might be their feeling of comradeship, and ask them to join their forces. If they did that "peacefully," and if their object was solely that of "peaceful persuasion," what could be morally wrong in it? If the test which he suggested were applied the result would be that where such a number of men were employed, at such an hour, and in such a way that their object might be inferred to be peaceful persuasion, they would be held to be within their rights, and there could be no reason for condemning the proceeding. But if not one or two men, but a dozen or more went on this mission of persuasion, the inference which the Court would draw would be that the object was not mere "peaceful persuasion," but intimidation or coercion or an appeal to fear. Supposing that the picket visited the house of a person at three o'clock in the morning, the magistrate might say that they could not peacefully persuade a man who was in bed; that what they wanted to do was to influence him by putting pressure on his freedom of will. The same observation might be made in regard to places selected. He thought that the insertion of the words "peaceful persuasion" as the test of the *bona fides* of the operation would accomplish all the results to be obtained by a series of restrictive enactments. It would get rid of difficulties of construction, and the uncertainties of application which must arise from the use of a vague expression such as "in a reasonable manner." It would, he thought, ensure that individual liberty was not seriously infringed, and that public order was defended.

SIR E. CARSON said that while the hon. and learned Attorney-General was speaking he could not help thinking that they ought to congratulate themselves on the fact that they had not got a stage further than the Report stage in which Amendments could be made, for he had not the least doubt, after what had taken place in connection with this Bill since it was introduced, that if the same crop of concessions had gone on, by the time they reached the next stage not only would the word "peacefully" have disappeared, but they would have been asked probably to insert the words "with turmoil and with violence." The hon. and learned Attorney-General had stated truly —and he admired him for his candour— that all his answers in Committee, and on the First and Second Reading, were founded on the words originally in the Bill, "peaceably and in a reasonable manner." When they asked for the numbers who might attend, or the hours in which it might be done, the answer was: "What do you want that for? It must be in 'a reasonable manner.'" Now, the hon. and learned Attorney-General declared that notwithstanding the previous consideration he had given the Bill when it was drafted and submitted, and when he was in charge of the First and Second Readings, and of the Committee stage, it had never occurred to him that the most unintelligible words that could be put into an Act of Parliament were the words "in a reasonable manner." The hon. and learned Attorney-General knew perfectly well that he had spent hours and days in the Courts in attempting to get them to define what was "reasonable." Had the hon. and learned Gentleman ever found any difficulty in getting the words "with reasonable care," or "for reasonable and probable cause" justly construed? While no one admired more than he did the candour of the hon. and learned Gentleman, he thought that, instead of trying to fritter away what he well knew were easily administered difficulties in relation to this term, it would have been much more honest to get up and say, "We are making one more, only one more little concession to the Labour Party." The hon. and learned Gentleman knew perfectly well that that was what had happened. They saw by the ordinary organs of communication which some of them read, and which some of them did not read, that a demand had been made by the Labour Party; they knew perfectly well that these words "in a reasonable manner" had been objected to, but instead of coming down and pretending that the English law knew no such method of solving the difficulty of what was "reasonable," why did not the hon. Gentleman get up and say, "Just as I had to give way on a previous occasion with reference to the opinions I so strongly felt and continue to feel, so here now I am prepared to throw over my principles." The Attorney-General practically said that this was a comparatively small matter and he was prepared to throw over the principles which from his youth up he had imbibed in the administration of the English law. But the matter did not rest there. The Attorney-General was not satisfied with that and so he must go on and attack the tribunals before which he had practised and under which he must have seen that justice had been done in the most difficult cases. He, the Attorney-General of this country, who ought to be the upholder of the administration of the law, had not hesitated on that occasion to bring forward as an argument that they could not trust the tribunals before which he had practised.

SIR JOHN WALTON: I used no such argument; I said nothing in the remotest degree like that.

SIR E. CARSON: The hon. and learned Gentleman said the tribunal might be disposed to be against the parties who brought the matter before them. If his Majesty's Attorney-General thought that the tribunals of the country could not be trusted it was his duty to alter their constitution and not to alter the laws.

SIR JOHN WALTON said that he had never stated anything of the sort and did not think it. The right hon. Gentleman had given a travesty of what he had said. He said that, if twelve men were asked to come to a conclusion that a certain proceeding was reasonable, it would be difficult to expect them to arrive at the same conclusion as twelve other men. He also said that in certain cases they would find twelve men who would say that no method of picketing would be reasonable.

SIR E. CARSON, who was received with cries of "Withdraw," said the moment the hon. and learned Gentleman said he had taken his words wrongly he of course withdrew. He was glad to know that the hon. and learned Gentleman intended no reflection upon the Courts, but if there was no reflection on the Courts, what was the difficulty in construing the word "reasonable"? The truth of the matter was that the Attorney-General had changed his mind. Upon the previous occasion everthing according to the Attorney-General turned upon the words, "in a reasonable manner." He had all these statements before him, and if it was necessary he could quote page after page in which the Attorney-General had said that they might reply upon those words. If they had not now to rely upon those words, "in a reasonable manner" what had they to rely upon? They had asked to have put in that there should be some provision as to reasonable numbers, and he would ask whether that was not a fair and a reasonable Amendment. It should never be forgotten that this was the first clause in any Act of Parliament which said that picketing was legal. [Cries of "No."] He defied anybody to point out to him any clause in the old Acts of Parliament which made it legal, although it was true that under the Act of 1875 it was stated that it should not be an offence within a certain clause of that Act. But that Act and the preceding Act had never legalised picketing. He did not think that they ought to extend the law beyond what was reasonably necessary to accomplish the object which they had in view. The hon. and learned

Member had said that everything they desired would be effected by putting in that the purpose in a man's mind must be of a peaceful character. But how could they get at what was in a man's mind? The very matter they were trying to provide against showed the adsurdity of any such attempt. What they said was that the moment 100 men were brought down to another man's house, although they might be just as peaceful as he and the Attorney-General were at that moment, yet their presence might be an act of the greatest intimidation towa ds the man and his wife and family. Did the Attorney-General mean to tell them that that point would be met by saying that the men had gone there peacefully and with no intention of creating any disturbance? Did he mean to tell them that a magistrate had to find that although they might have gone there with a peaceful purpose their very numbers might not amount to intimidation? That was the whole distinction, and what they asked was that in legalising picketing, at all events some rules should be laid down as to the extent and manner in which it could be carried on. But there was a more important matter still having regard to what was to be left out of the Bill. They were met at once with the question of nuisance not only towards the individual but towards the public. If they legalised a certain act what was the use of coming to the Courts and saying "this is a nuisance." The Courts would say "But it is legalised by an Act of Parilament and we cannot help that." So far as he was concerned he regretted the ignominous surrender which the Government had made on this clause more than that which they had made on Clause 4, because that was a mere matter of money, and he was not sure that so far as the capitalist was concerned it would make much difference one way or the other. But here it was a different matter. They were dealing with a question which would affect not only a class, but the public at large, and he thought that it was most unfortunate that the Government had not shown themselves able to resist the "peaceful persuasion" which had been addressed to them, and that unfortunately they had not been able to resist the intimidation which had resulted in an utter change of front.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said the right hon. Gentleman had made many fallacious statements and had entirely ignored the statements of his hon. and learned friend as to the meaning of the clause as it now stood. His hon. and learned friend had pointed out that all the safeguards which were attached to the word "reasonable," were amply carried out by the definition given of the nature of the act to be dealt with in the clause. It was very much better, both for draftsmanship and for purposes of substance, instead of attempting to define numbers, to define the purposes for which, and for which alone, the act in question was to be allowed. The right hon. Gentleman alleged some inconsistencies between what his hon. and learned friend had said and done in Committee and on Report. If that was made a ground of criticism, the sooner they got rid of the Report stage the better, because the very object of the Report stage was not to do the same thing but to benefit by the arguments addressed in Committee. It was said that a revolutionary change had been made, but if such was the case, then his hon. and learned friend had good precedent for it. In 1859 there appeared for the first time a section permitting peaceful picketing. That Statute was repealed by the Statute of 1871, and, unfortunately, in the Statute of 1871 the section of the Act of 1859 was not re-enacted. But in the Act of 1875 the Tory Government had before them the Act of 1859, and it was then decided that there should be a re-enactment of the provision relating to peaceful picketing. But the framers of that Act dropped out the words "peacefully and in a reasonable manner," so that his hon. and learned friend was doing nothing more to-day than he had excellent Tory precedent for. The words were dropped out because they were thought to be unnecessary. No terrible consequences followed, and the words were even more unnecessary to-day than they were in 1875.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the argument of the Solicitor-General had certainly been a remarkable one. The hon. and learned Gentleman had said if persons were not to be allowed to change their opinions in the interval between the Committee and Report stage why have a

Report stage? He quite admitted that if changes of opinion between the two stages of a Bill was to be practised on the scale that the House had witnessed on this occasion he would quite understand, and was inclined to adopt, the suggestion that these subjects should only come before the House on one of these two traditional occasions on which they had to be considered. But where would the Labour Party have been if, in respect of this measure, there had been no *locus pœnitentiae* of a Report stage, wherein reasonable persuasion might be exercised. The House would have been reading the Bill a third time with all its awful imperfections embodied in it, and would have lost the opportunity given by the present rules of hearing three Ministers get up and say they were entirely opposed, as they always had been, to the measure which they were supporting, but nevertheless they had great pleasure in yielding to the wishes of hon. Members below the Gangway. The Solicitor-General had reproached his hon. friend with not having met the arguments of the Attorney-General. What were the arguments? They were that he had put into the clause the word "peaceable" and that that word governed everything and prevented things that might otherwise occur—that if a man went at three in the morning to a man to try to obtain information or to persuade that person to work or to abstain from working, the hour was so inconvenient that the magistrates and the Courts would at once say it was not peaceable. Was that the way in which the Court interpreted the English language?

*SIR JOHN WALTON: The inference would be from the time selected that the man had some ulterior motive in selecting it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that might be, but why should it not be peaceable? The only protection given to the person picketed was that the picketing should be peaceable.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: Not at all.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the additions and changes to this Bill had been so numerous that he might have overlooked a few of them.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said at all events there had been no addition to this particular Amendment before the House. The test of legality in the exercise of this right was that it should be for the mere purpose of peaceful persuasion and not for any ulterior or collateral object. The clause with this Amendment was as effectual in the protection of individual liberty as before.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the impression made on his mind was that the hon. and learned Gentleman distinctly told the House that if there were an attempt to persuade a man at three in the morning, the magistrates would hold that that could not be described as peaceful persuasion.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said he was anxious to fulfil his undertaking to satisfy the House that the clause with this Amendment in it was effectual. The Amendment was this. If a picket by its numbers, or the hour at which it picketed or the use of language, led to the inference that it had only the object of using peaceful persuasion of the man picketed, it should be legal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that if anyone were privately drafting a clause to prevent anything but peaceful persuasion would he draft it as the Attorney-General had done? Would he not say that the numbers must be limited and the hours reasonable? Supposing all the members of the Opposition were to follow the Attorney-General home, and, in the most courteous manner, inform him of all the arguments against this Amendment. No one would say that that was not peaceful persuasion.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: I should say that it was not for the purpose of peaceful persuasion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it would be a great nuisance, but that was not forbidden by this clause. It would be unreasonable, and the numbers would be excessive, but that did not make it unpeaceful. If it were peaceful and persuasive it would be lawful, whether it was a nuisance or not, He had thus met the argument of the Attorney-General. If the Government were sincere in desiring that only persuasion should be allowed, and only under the circumstances under which mere persuasion was reasonable and proper, they ought to accept Amendments limiting the numbers. But on the other hand, if they wished to leave a loophole for that which called itself peaceful but was not peaceful, for that which called itself reasonable but was not reasonable, and for that which called itself persuasion but was intimidation in disguise, then let them refuse this Amendment.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said he did not think this controversy had been very conclusive. The alarm of hon. Gentlemen opposite was very ill-founded. There was not the slightest reason to anticipate that intimidation, molestation, or nuisance would be permitted if this section of the clause were passed in the form in which it stood. Let him point out that all the section did was to emphasise what the law was at present. The late Prime Minister had forcibly put what the position would be in the imaginary cases he suggested. He had said that this section authorised any number to picket, and he was perfectly correct. From that he at once drew the deduction that because a statute authorised an unlimited number of persons to attend that it would not be in the power of the constable to move those people on. He begged to assure the right hon. Gentleman that that would not be the case, because the section they were now debating was nothing more than a reiteration of the law in Lyons *v.* Wilkins. The late Lord Justice Stirling held that attending for purposes other than for obtaining information, and for peaceful persuasion was unlawful, but the House of Lords had put that matter right since, and the Court of Appeal held before this Bill was prepared that they might attend for the purpose of peaceful persuasion. He might inform the late Prime Minister that when, under this clause, men were sued for nuisance or for congregating in numbers so as to cause intimidation or for any other unlawful purpose they would be just as rigidly dealt with under the Bill as they were at the present time.

*MR. BELL (Derby) said he desired to say a few words in this debate, more especially after the alarming pictures that had been painted. He had had some experience in Labour movements and he knew something in regard to what led up to this Bill, and why these Amendments had been placed in it. [OPPOSITION cheers.] He quite appreciated those cheers, but at the same time he desired to point out to right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side that when this Bill was passed, as it would be passed, it would make absolutely no difference in any of those instances which had been given by the late Prime Minister and the late Solicitor-General. He only desired to prove this by calling attention to the fact that so recently as two or three weeks ago, a large number of working men who were out on strike went to the house of another working man and they went in such large numbers as to alarm the man and his wife. Apparently, in the opinion of the man himself they endeavoured peacefully to persuade him, and there was no violence and no intimidation. The person concerned was annoyed by the presence of such a large number of men, and he took proceedings against them under the common law, and the men who were summoned were all fined £10 and costs, or two months imprisonment. He needed hardly say more than that those who represented Labour deprecated anything which was likely to border on the line of intimidation, and they did not desire to remove any of those restrictions. They did not desire to remove the common law from imposing similar penalties if they were deserved upon those who committed such offences in the future. If hon. Members above the Gangway honestly desired that peaceful actions should be the work of those who conducted strikes or who were on strike, he could assure them that the Labour Leaders desired that the penalties should be upon the people who committed the offence, but they should not seek to get at the funds of their union. If a body of men got excited and thought they were personally relieved from any liability or responsibility, and were under the impression that the funds of the union could be attached for offences of their own, then they would not be very careful what they did. He would not have intervened in the debate but for the fact that the Solicitor-General did an injustice to those who had been at the head of the Labour movement when he pictured the alarming crimes that were going to take place if this Bill passed into law. No more crimes would occur in the future than in the past, and the penalties inflicted and the instances reported in yesterday's newspapers ought to be sufficient evidence that the punishment was sufficient, and they did not ask to be relieved of their responsibilty.

MR. RAWLINSON said he had the report of the cases referred to by the hon. Member for Derby, and he did not think that in his wildest moments the hon. Member could call it a case of peaceful picketing.

MR. BELL said he quoted those cases to show that they did not desire to be relieved of such penalties under similar circumstances.

MR. RAWLINSON said he understood the hon. Member to say that what was done on that occasion was done in a peaceful way. [Cries of "No"] But that was not the point under discussion. The point was a most important one. As the Bill stood without the Government Amendment people could not go to a man's house to the number of 100 or 200, and attend there unless they did it peaceably and in a reasonable manner. This Amendment would alter that, and he would state very shortly the reasons why he looked upon the words "peaceably and in a reasonable manner" as absolutely necessary for the safeguarding of the interests of the public. In this discussion upon an Amendment moved by the right hon. Baronet, the Member for the Forest of Dean, to omit the words "peaceably and in a reasonable manner," the learned Attorney-General—he was reading from *Hansard*—said—

> "He could not accept the Amendment. It was essential to the success of this Bill that these words should remain in the clause. It was obvious that when they were going to legalise the right of a number of persons to assemble with a view to persuading others, that right should be qualified in some proper manner by placing it under reasonable restrictions. There were two ways in which that might be done. They might specify the various conditions to be observed in order to gauge the character of the gathering, and the proceedings of the people assembled. They might say, as had been suggested, that words should be inserted in the clause to indicate the hours within which the gathering might take place, they might specify the spot at which persons might assemble, and they might point out that they must not cause intimidation or make use of language and demonstrations which would cause alarm or danger. That would be a cumbrous clause and would cause as great difficulty in construction as the expression which the Government, as an alternative, had put into the Bill. . . . They would leave it to the discretion of the Courts of law to say what was reasonable. . . . He could not conceive an expression more appropriate and more likely to do justice—"†

than the one he was supporting. Those were the words of an eminent lawyer, and he ventured as a very much junior one heartily to concur in every word expressed by the hon. and learned Attorney-General on this point. He would quote one further passage from a subsequent speech on the same Amendment, and he would appeal to the House, having regard to these words, whether it was right and fair to bring up this Amendment on the Report Stage. The Attorney-General said:

> "It was of course impossible to accept the Amendment, because the discussion had been conducted all through on the assumption—and he had met proposals of Amendments for safeguards on that very ground—that there was this provision in the Bill as it stood. If the clause were a declaration giving persons the right of picketing, which they might exercise providing they did so without violating the conditions prescribed, it was impossible that while they were exercising that right they should be doing anything illegal, because the object of the clause was to describe lawful conduct. The question whether it was proposed to picket in such a way as to cause a nuisance or a trespass must enter into the consideration whether or not the conduct was reasonable. If it was lawful conduct it could not be a nuisance or a trespass. He thought that his right hon. friend would recognise that it would not be reasonable to allow that right to be exercised without any kind of restriction. In the view of the hon. Member who had just spoken the word 'peaceably' would be a sufficient restriction, but he did not think that it was any less vague or less difficult of construction than the word 'reasonable.'"‡

He ventured to agree with that expression of legal opinion. He would not alter it in one word lest by doing so he might tarnish it.

---

† See (4) *Debates* clxii, 1631, 1632.

‡ See *Debates* (4) clxii, 1636.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. and learned Member, but really I would ask him to observe that I was dealing there with both expressions in collocation, and particularly with the word "peaceably." What I now propose is to strike out altogether any qualification of the method of attendance, and to impose an altogether new alternative, and, I think, a more effectual test, by indicating the purpose for which the operation took place.

MR. RAWLINSON said he understood the hon. and learned Gentleman to say that he was dealing with the state of facts, namely, whether men attended reasonably and peaceably at a particular place. Did he suggest to the House that that was more difficult to define than what he was suggesting now—that they were to define what was in a man's mind. He read again from the hon. and learned Gentleman's speech:

> "If they were to accept the view that there was to be some sort of restriction, he did not think that they could carry that view practically very much further than if they said that the assembly which was legalised under the clause must be peaceable and reasonable and must be conducted in a reasonable way. They had to face the danger of some harsh and restrictive construction being placed on the clause, and he did not think they appreciably diminished that danger by striking out the word 'reasonable.' All the apprehensions that they had heard in the course of the debate were he thought ill-founded, but he thought there would be a perfect feeling of security if it was provided that the powers given by the clause should be used reasonably. None of them contemplated the alternative of an unreasonable exercise of the power, and therefore they ought not to reject the proposal that the exercise should be of a reasonable character. For these reasons it was impossible for him to accept the Amendment.' "†

And for the same reason it was impossible for him to do otherwise than to vote for his hon. and learned friend's Amendment.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS (Reading) said he had listened to what had fallen from the learned Attorney-General in explanation of this clause, and he confessed it seemed to him then, and seemed to him now, that, if anything, he had acted more in accordance with the views of hon. Members opposite than of those who sat below the Gangway—[AN HON. MEMBER, "No."] It appeared to him that what his hon. and learned friend had in his mind was this, that he was desirous of legalising that kind of picketing only which would be for the purpose, and merely for the purpose, of obtaining or communicating information or merely for the purpose of peaceful persuasion, and that he was desirous there should be no other form of picketing legalised. In construing the words as they appeared in the Bill at the end of the Committee Stage, and before the Amendment he was now moving, the words "peaceably and in a reasonable manner" did not appear to carry out his intention successfully, at least so successfully as by inserting the word "peaceably" before obtaining or persuading. Perhaps there was no better method of dealing with a controversy of this kind than by taking an instance. He would take the illustration given by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition. He was sure that hon. Members opposite would think that he was attempting to deal fairly with them when he took the very illustration the right hon. Gentleman propounded in favour of the argument he put to the House. Supposing they had, as he suggested, eighty or ninety Members of the House going to the Attorney-General's house at three o'clock to-morrow morning——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Twelve o'clock at night.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS thought that with that correction he was accurately representing the right hon. Gentleman's instance. No one in the House had greater admiration for the Leader of the Opposition's powers of argument than he and he would dearly like to hear the right hon. Gentleman in a Court addressing a jury and showing that the eighty or ninety Members of this House—and he presumed they would be from the Opposition if so many could be found—were following the Attorney-General after the argument which they had had to-night, calling at his house, and ringing at the bell, for what purpose? For the purpose of communicating information to him and peacefully persuading him. He would ask the House to consider for a moment what a dfficulty the right hon. Gentleman would be in if he had to put such a proposition as that to a jury composed of twelve men not skilled in metaphysics or dialectics—twelve men of ordinary sound common sense. He imagined the Leader of the Opposition saying to the twelve members of the jury, "We eighty or ninety men followed the Attorney-General to his house at twelve o'clock at night, but we had no object or purpose in view but that of peacefully persuading or of communicating information to him!" Might he suggest that what would happen would be that the learned Judge, after paying a tribute to the great skill and ability with which the case had been argued, would proceed to ask the jury one or two pointed questions. Why eighty or ninety men? Why twelve o'clock at night? They could not all argue at the same time, not even in the street; and if they were not to argue, how could they peacefully persuade? Would any one think that the jury would find that the Attorney-General had been waited upon at his house by these men for the purposes of "peaceful persuasion." But it was said by the right hon. Gentleman with considerable force that the attendance of eighty or ninety men would be an intolerable nuisance. Outside this House they had to listen to many arguments which were an intolerable nuisance, and when that intolerable nuisance was repeated eighty or ninety times he could quite understand that it would be objectionable in practice. But that did not meet the point put by the hon. and learned Attorney-General, which was that the sole test of peaceful picketing was whether it was attendance "merely" for the purpose of peacefully persuading or of communicating information. If they introduced, for example, the element suggested by one speaker, of obstruction in the street, they were introducing something totally different, and it might be said that that was not attending merely for the purpose of peacefully persuading or of communicating information. The right hon. and learned Member for Dublin University said, and of course he believed it at the time he said it, that there was no difficulty whatever in dealing with such words as "reasonable," "with reasonable care," "with reasonable and probable cause." He appealed to the experience of lawyers, and asked whether there was any word upon which there might be a greater difference of opinion than in the determination of whether an act was done "reasonably" in particular circumstances. It was much the same when a man said that his argument was based on common-sense. What was the standard of a common-sense point of view. For the purpose of defining "reasonably" there was no test of the word except the opinion of the Judge or the jury who had to decide the case. Whatever the department of law might be, whether in a mercantile transaction, or any other transactions in which the Court had to determine such a question it would always be very difficult to say whether the Judge or the jury would find a thing to be reasonable. He was not saying too much when he stated that one Judge might find a certain set of facts reasonable to-day, and another Judge might find the same set of facts unreasonable to-morrow. The necessity of the Amendment was that those who were organising and directing trade disputes might know with greater certainty what would be decided by the Courts. There was not much difficulty in deciding what was "peaceful persuasion." The right hon. and learned Member for Dublin University said—"How are you to ascertain the state of a man's mind?" and he put the question as if the mere putting of it was a complete answer. The right hon. and learned Gentleman was engaged every day in the Courts of Justice in ascertaining the state of mind of men making statements.

---

† See (4) *Debates* clxii, 1636, 1637.

SIR E. CARSON said he was sure that the hon. and learned Gentleman did not desire to misrepresent him. What he put forward was that it was much more difficult to ascertain what was the state of a man's mind than to find what was reasonable from the statement of facts.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS said he meant to criticise the observations in that spirit. In reference to dealing with a question of the state of mind of an individual he would give one instance which he was sure would carry conviction to the House. Daily an answer had to be given to this question in a Court of Justice. A statement had been made which was untrue. Was it made honestly or dishonestly? They had to determine that by ascertaining the state of mind of the man who made it. Nobody had more skill than his right hon. and learned friend in extracting information as to the state of the man's mind so as to enable him to determine that question.

SIR E. CARSON: Except you.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS disclaimed the compliment, and went on to say it was a common practice in every Court to attempt to find out the state of mind of any man making a statement, and he submitted that the clause as now drafted by the Attorney-General carried out with much greater certainty and precision the intention which the hon. and learned Gentleman had in including the words as they appeared on the Committee stage.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) replying to some shouts of "Divide" with which he was received, said he thought that hon. Members opposite might pay a better compliment to the speech which had just been delivered than to endeavour to secure that it should go without a reply. The hon. and learned Member had said that the clause as amended by the Attorney-General was more favourable to the views of those who sat on the Opposition benches than to those below the gangway. He thought that statement alone was a sufficient refutation of the hon. and learned Member's speech. Everybody knew that the clause had been amended at the suggestion of and under pressure from hon. Members below the gangway. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh."] If hon. Members opposite did not know it they must be in a very singular condition of mind after what had been said. He believed that hon. Members below the gangway knew their own business a great deal better than to ask for an Amendment which would not serve their turn. There were two changes which the Attorney-General made. One was to strike out the word "reasonable." That he would not deal with. The other was to substitute for a definition of the manner a definition of the object. That was the whole difference between them, and he said without the least fear of contradiction that it was much safer if they wished to have a clear and precise and definite piece of legislation to define the manner of the act than to define the object. He ventured to make an appeal not to the Government, because this was not a Government Bill, but to the hon. Member for Clitheroe and his friends and to ask them whether they would not be wise to accept this Amendment and to provide that people who went for the purpose of "peaceful persuasion" must go in reasonable numbers. If the hon. Member and his friends would accept the Amendment they would show the sincerity of their intentions.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said he only intended to make a very short speech because he intended to speak to the Amendment, whereas for the last two hours hon. Members had been speaking not to the Amendment before the House but to the proposed Amendments of the hon. and learned Attorney-General. It was not in his view important to consider what everybody said yesterday or the day before. The question was whether the Amendment claiming that a provision should be made in regard to the number of people engaged in picketing was reasonable or not. What they desired to do was to make peaceful persuasion legal in regard to picketing. It was because he was in favour of legalising picketing in this way that he was not in favour of the Amendment and in his opinion it was because hon. Members were against picketing in every way that they were supporting the Amendment. It was because it would limit the power of the workmen in regard to peaceful picketing that he was against the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 347; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 366.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. H. (Eastb'rne
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B.(H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J .F. L.(Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt.Hn.Sir J. T.(Ches.
Bryce, Rt.Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney C.
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt.Hn. Richard Knight
Chance, Frederick William

Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Panc's, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. G'ns'd.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)

Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Acc'ngton
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter

Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tip'rary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Centr'l
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manch'ster
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.

Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, H.J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'th'n
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson,J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Hud'rsf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bertram, Julius
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark,G'v'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn.Sir John H.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lockwood,Rt.Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Saltor, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, further proceeding on consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered To-morrow.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Resolution of the House of the 4th August last.

Adjourned at nine minutes after Eleven o'clock.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Friday, 2nd November*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

## *RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*

### ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 to 1902 (APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS TO BOARD OF TRADE).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd July; *Dr. Macnamara*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 341.]

## *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.*

### Manchester Stamping Office.

Mr. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the cost of the stamping office in Manchester and the staff employed there, and the reason for including the staff of the Manchester office in the Estimates for Somerset House; is he aware that the Manchester Stamping Office is located in the same building as the office of the Collector of Inland Revenue; and will he state why this official does not control the stamping office in Manchester as in other towns and thus save the salary of £500 a year paid to an assistant accountant who is engaged on work apparently foreign to an Inland Revenue accountant's ordinary duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The total cost of the staff engaged exclusively on "stamping" in Manchester is in round figures £2,100 per annum. It is included in the Estimates for the central staff of the Accountant General and of the Inspector of Stamping respectively, because Manchester is in respect of stamping on a different footing from any other provincial stamping office. At Manchester alone of the provincial offices in England and Wales stamping is done on what may be called a "wholesale" scale, by means of power machinery, and where this is the case a distinct checking staff is required. The cost would be the same, whether the checking officers were included in the staff of the Collector of Inland Revenue or in that of the Accountant General, who is also Controller General of Inland Revenue, but by employing officers of the latter's staff the check is more complete, as it extends to the collector as well as to the stamping branch of his business.

### Irish National Education—Proportion of Teachers to Pupils.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the fact that, according to the last edition of the rules and regulations of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, two teachers can now be appointed in a school with an average attendance of thirty-five pupils, while an average of ninety-five is required before a third teacher can be appointed, meaning an additional sixty pupils for one additional teacher; and as two teachers cannot effectively teach such a large number as ninety or ninety-four pupils when these are divided into several standards, and as an average attendance of ninety-five usually means an ordinary attendance of considerably over 100, will the reduction of this average be favourably considered in the near future.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that under the present rules a junior assistant mistress may be appointed, in addition to the principal teacher, in a national school at which there is an average attendance of thirty-five pupils. A fully certificated assistant may be appointed in a school at which the average attendance is at least fifty, and a second fully certificated assistant in a school at which the average attendance is ninety-five. The Commissioners would be glad if it were possible to reduce the standard of average attendance required to warrant the recognition of a second fully certificated assistant teacher, but to do so to any appreciable extent would cause a very large additional charge on the Vote, and all the money at the Commissioners' disposal at present is ear-marked for more pressing needs.

Mr. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Commissioners of Education in Ireland can state what is the average number of pupils to each adult teacher (who teaches during the entire school day) in England and in Ireland respectively, according to number on rolls and according to average daily attendance.

*An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of National Education that, according to the Report for the year 1904–5 of the Board of Education for England, the number of pupils on the school registers was 6,047,770 and the number of pupils in average daily attendance 5,142,774. The number of adult teachers was 133,731. This gives 45·2 pupils on registers, and 38·4 in average daily attendance, for each adult teacher. According to the last Report of the Commissioners of National Education, there was during the year 1905 an average of 641,664 pupils on the rolls in schools where the teachers were paid personal salaries and an average daily attendance of 427,808. The number of adult teachers employed in these schools was 13,249. This gives 48·4 pupils on rolls, and 32·3 in average daily attendance, for each adult teacher.

### Galway Police Force.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the nominal and actual strength of the free and extra forces of police in the East and West Ridings of Galway respectively on the following dates: 1st March, 1905; 1st December, 1905; 1st January, 1906; 1st February, 1906, and first of each succeeding month, including October instant.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The nominal free force fixed for the county Galway for the three years prior to 21st May, 1906, was:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Galway, E. R. | - - | 311 |
| Galway, W. R. | - - | 349 |

Since 21st May, 1906, the nominal free force has been:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Galway, E. R. | - - | 313 |
| Galway, W. R. | - - | 303 |

There is no difference between nominal and actual strength in the extra force. The actual strength of the free and extra forces on the dates mentioned in the Question was as follows:—

| | 1st March, 1905. | | 1st Dec., 1905. | | 1st January, 1906. | | 1st Feb., 1896. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. |
| Galway, E. R. - | 284 | — | 303 | 33 | 304 | 14 | 300 | 12 |
| Galway, W. R. - | 310 | — | 294 | 38 | 293 | 38 | 291 | 38 |

| | 1st March, 1906. | | 1st April, 1906. | | 1st May, 1906. | | 1st June, 1906. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. |
| Galway, E. R. - | 299 | 12 | 297 | 11 | 290 | 11 | 297 | 123 |
| Galway, W. R. - | 292 | 37 | 288 | 37 | 287 | 37 | 288 | 35 |

| | 1st July, 1906. | | 1st August, 1906. | | 1st Sept., 1906. | | 1st October, 1906. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. | Free. | Extra. |
| Galway, E. R. - | 291 | 9 | 299 | 21 | 301 | — | 299 | — |
| Galway, W. R. - | 296 | — | 296 | — | 295 | — | 290 | — |

NOTE.—It should be observed that the actual strength of the free force in a county is always necessarily below the nominal strength, because this latter includes a percentage of recruits in training at the depôt to supply waste due to retirements, death, etc.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what additions were made, and on what dates, to the police establishments in the East and West Ridings, respectively, of Galway in the year 1905; what reductions, if any, have since been authorised in the extra force of each Riding; whether the establishment in either Riding has been recently augmented; and, if so, to what extent and under what circumstances.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In the months of March and April, 1905, the police force serving in county Galway was temporarily increased by the addition of the following extra force:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| East Riding | - | 111 men. |
| West Riding | - | 50 men. |

The extra force in the East Riding was reduced by seventy-seven in April and May, 1905, that is, while the late Government were in office. The balance of thirty-four men was reduced from time to time from December, 1905, till 5th July, 1906, when the extra force was entirely dispensed with. In the West Riding the extra force was reduced by twelve men in May and June, 1905, and the balance of thirty-eight men was reduced in February, 1906, and finally dispensed with in June, 1906. The force of the East Riding was temporarily increased on 12th October, 1906, by twenty-five men of the reserve force, in consequence of disturbance in the Athenry district.

### Irish Railway Rates on Agricultural Implements.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company of Ireland, in spite of the fact that the Great Northern Company of Ireland charge reduced rates on unsold agricultural implements passing from one agricultural show in Ireland to another, insist upon payment of full rates, to the disadvantage of Irish agriculturists; and whether he is prepared to use his influence to put an end to this treatment in the interests of agriculture.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to my reply to his Question of 9th July last,† in which the practice as to the rates charged for agricultural implements unsold and passing from one show to another in Ireland was explained. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are given to understand that the practice in this respect is the same on the Great Northern Railway of Ireland as on the Great Southern and Western Railway, with one exception, viz., as between Dublin and Belfast, in which case a reduced rate is charged. It may be that the sea competition between Dublin and Belfast had some influence in the arrangement of this rate. If any aggrieved person should make representation to the Department in a specific case they will have the matter fully investigated.

### Promotion of Irish Teachers and Condition of Schools.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of Education propose to continue the direction given to their inspectors not to recommend promotion in the case of teachers whose schools are not above reproach in construction and other respects, having regard to the fact that the Commissioners themselves admit that the teachers are not responsible for the present condition of affairs, and that there are no funds for the proper upkeep and maintenance of primary schools in Ireland owing to the action of the Treasury.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners inform me that they have not issued any such instructions as are indicated in the Question. On the contrary, their inspectors have directions to make allowance for any local circumstances that may affect the efficient working of a school. The Commissioners have, however, instructed their inspectors to take into consideration when forming an opinion of the teacher's efficiency, the manner in which the hygienic and sanitary arrangements are looked after by the teacher, the neatness of the teachers and pupils, and the general discipline which he enforces.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clx., 497.

### Artillery Practice at Shoebury—Danger to Public.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.) : To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the court of inquiry with reference to the dangerous shooting at Shoebury on June 4th has yet been held ; whether that court heard any evidence from the persons who were in danger and whose names and addresses were furnished to the War Office ; what was the result of the inquiry ; and whether he has issued or proposes to issue any additional regulations for the safety of the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A court of inquiry was held at Shoeburyness at which Mr. Kirby, the owner of the boat in which the party were fishing, and who was on board of it at the time, gave evidence. The result of the inquiry established the fact that stringent precautions were observed, but failed to elicit any evidence as to the reason for the abnormal behaviour of the projectile. It is believed that it must have ricochetted from some floating substance. No regulations could provide against such a contingency, and it is not proposed to take any further action in the matter.

---

### SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures : Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer ; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Branch.

Report to lie upon the Table.

---

### ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the House at its rising this day do adjourn till Monday next."—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) asked the Prime Minister what business the Government proposed to take immediately after the Trade Disputes Bill.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs) said on Monday he thought the Merchant Shipping Bill would be taken, and on Tuesday the further stage of the Plural Voting Bill.

Question put, and agreed too.

---

### TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

As amended, further considered

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said the Amendment standing in his name to insert after "trade union" in Clause 2 the words "or of an individual employer," was one which had already received the attention of the House when the Bill was proceeding through Committee, and he should not have troubled the House further on the same point if the Attorney-General had not said when the Amendment was moved, that they had not succeeded in making its object intelligible. The poinit to which he desired to call the attention of the House was that the omission of a provision extending the same rights to an individual employer as to an association made it quite impossible for the Government to contend, as was contended last night, that the Bill, as between employers and employed, was to be completely impartial. Under Clause 2, sub-section (1), as the Attorney-General stated when the measure was considered in Committee, they were for the first time making certain acts lawful which up to the present time had not been lawful. In the interests of what parties were those acts made lawful? As the Bill stood they would be made lawful in the first place for associations of workmen, and, in the second place, for associations of employers. He thought the Attorney-General would agree with him that in its present shape, the Bill only gave those rights to associations of working men such as trade unions and to associations of employers. The important point for the House to consider was, that if these rights were legitimate weapons to be used, they must not be limited in the matter of industrial warfare or strikes to the case where one of the parties had made himself one of an association. He would give an illustration to make the unreasonableness of this clear. There had lately been considerable discussion in the papers as to the action of the hon. Member for Birkenhead in forming a trust. Assuming for the purposes of argument, the hon. Member had a dispute with his workmen at Port Sunlight before the trust was completed, he could not exercise a single one of the rights that were secured to employers under sub-section (2,) of Clause 1, and he got no advantage from the equality of the employer which they were told was the consideration which influenced the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the other hand, if he joined the trust and made himself one of an association of employers he at once got those facilities. There was no word in the Bill from beginning to end to cover the case of the individual employer. During the Committee Stage the Attorney-General said they were dealing in this part of the Bill, and generally, with cases of combinations and not of individuals. That observation was well founded if it were limited to Clause 1, and to other clauses which the Attorney-General might cite, but not if it were applied exclusively to the acts which for the first time were made lawful by Clause 2, sub-section (1.) As the Bill was at present framed, it would, in defiance of the whole policy of the Liberal Party, give employers every conceivable encouragement not to act singly, and not to attempt to regulate their disputes with their own workmen; it would deliberately invite them to form powerful associations which would produce on a large scale that very condition of anarchy between employers and workmen which he believed every member of the House would join with him in deprecating.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) wished to associate himself entirely with the extremely reasonable arguments of his hon. and learned friend. The purpose of this Bill, they had been repeatedly assured, was to grant very considerable privileges and immunities to persons engaged in the conduct of trade disputes; but, as his hon. and learned friend had pointed out, unless the Amendment were accepted no such equality could reasonably be said to exist. The privileges of this Bill as it now stood applied to associations only, and he could not in the least understand why they were to be denied to an individual employer, merely because he was unwilling to join some federation. He asked the House to take the case, say, of a small employer, who did not for reasons of his own belong to any great federation. What would be his position if he should find himself involved in a dispute with his workmen? His position would be one of absolute inequality. It would be impossible to exercise peaceful persuasion, or to attempt to obtain information upon his side; and, under those circumstances an employer would not be in a position of equality with his opponents. He hoped the Attorney-General would see that it was not fair to say, as would be the case if this Amendment were refused, that an employer must either make himself a member of some great and powerful federation of employers or be placed at an absolute and direct disadvantage in case of a dispute between him and his workmen. That seemed to him to be an absolutely correct description of the effect of resisting this Amendment, and he was totally at a loss to know why the Government, and still more hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway, should object to so eminently reasonable and proper a proposal.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 14, after the words 'trade union' to insert the words 'or of an individual employer.'"—(*Mr. F. E. Smith*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District) said he could not but believe that this Amendment had been moved under an entire misapprehension as to the law at present. He was afraid hon. Members opposite, by the use of the blessed words "privilege" and "immunity" had hidden the real facts from themselves. There was no attempt in this clause or in any part of the Bill to create privileges. What the Bill did and what this clause did was to bring back the law as exceptionally applied in the case of trade unions to the general law of the country. There was no case on record in which it had been declared illegal for an individual employer to employ a picket. He did it constantly. Whenever there was a dispute he sent his foreman or agent to the men to try and induce them to break away from the strike. That was done as a common practice, and it had never been suggested that there was anything illegal in it. What had been declared illegal was for men to do it on behalf of a trade union, and that only in a recent case. Indeed, he thought in regard to this particular case hon. Members opposite ought to be exceedingly grateful to the present Liberal Government for trying to give effect to the expressed intention of the Act passed by the Conservative Government in 1875. That was all that this clause did. From 1875 to 1897, when the case of Lyons *v.* Wilkins was decided, it was always understood that by reason of the Act of 1875 picketing to the point of peaceful persuasion was as perfectly lawful in the case of the representatives of trade unions as in the case of the representatives of individual employers or associations of employers. This Amendment would do nothing more than declare the law as it was at present, and there was an intense desire on the part of Members sitting on the Ministerial Benches, as well as those more directly representing trade unions, that nothing should be done of a partisan character in favour of trade unionists which should not be done equally in favour of employers; and therefore he saw no reason why this Amendment should not be accepted, unless it was on the grounds of mere draughtsmanship and construction.

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said he would explain in a word what the objection was. Whether it was an objection which would prevent the Amendment being made was for the House to consider. The Amendment was not required because the object of the clause was to protect the acts of a combination, and the necessity for that protection arose by reason of the law of conspiracy. In the Act it would be found that the clause authorising peaceful picketing expressly provided that such combinations should not be subject to indictment for conspiracy at common law. It was therefore unnecessary to make provision for the protection of an individual employer whether he acted personally or representatively, because as an individual employer he was not subject to the law of conspiracy, but was only exercising the universal right of seeking to persuade workmen to return to their work. Therefore, for this reason he did not think the Amendment was necessary, and in its present form it was also objectionable because it applied to an individual employer and not to a firm. If however, the words "or firm" were inserted he should be quite willing to accept it.

MR. F. E. SMITH said he was very grateful for what the hon. and learned Gentleman had said, and, speaking for himself he thought the suggested alteration would be an improvement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said this was a somewhat interesting point on which he would rather take the opinion of lawyers. As he understood, the Attorney-General's view was that this Amendment was quite unnecessary because an individual, whether he were a workman or an employer, could do all the acts contemplated in Clause 2 without placing himself in any difficulty as regarded the law of the land. It was only in the case of an association that any danger arose from picketing or encouraging others to picket. If the view adumbrated by the Attorney-General was the correct view of the law, and the single employer might not do, unless the Amendment were accepted, what a combination could do, he was not sure he would look upon it with the same favour as the hon. and learned Gentleman did, for the reason that it would inevitably drive employers into combination. He was one of those who differed entirely from the view of hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway that this Bill only affected the interests of trade unions. He was afraid that in the industrial developments of the future there was just as much to fear from great combinations of employers as from great combinations of workmen, and it was because he did not like to see the already great powers of combinations still further increased, whether those combinations consisted of employers or of employed, that he looked with apprehension upon the general scheme of this measure. That being the general attitude he had adopted he should look with some distrust on anything that forced employers into combination. As a matter of fact employers did not, judging by the past, find it quite as easy or natural to combine as workmen, but if they compelled them to combine their combinations would be of very great power. He could not say that the power of these combinations would be greater than that of trade unions—the issue of a conflict would no doubt largely depend on general movements of public opinion, the state of trade, and other matters—but that employers' combinations would constitute a social and economic force of extraordinary power no one could doubt. Therefore, if the Amendment altered the law he should look upon it with some distrust, because it would encourage employers to combine; but if it had no other effect than to make clear the law as it stood at present he had nothing to say either for or against it.

**LORD R. CECIL** (Marylebone, E.) said it appeared to him that both the Attorney-General and his hon. and learned friend had not quite appreciated the force of this Bill. The clause began: "it shall be lawful for one or more persons." Therefore, what this clause was going to do was to legalise the action of one or more persons, but only if they were "acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union." It was quite clear however that there was a third case, namely, that of acting on behalf of an employer or a firm, and that was the case which was met by this Amendment. It was not true to say that the Amendment would legalise the act of an employer acting by himself. That would be already provided for by the words "acting on their own behalf.' This Amendment was required to meet the case of an employer who found it necessary, not being a member of an association, to send more than one person to carry out what he wished to be done in the way of persuading men to return to work. In such a case the man sent would not be free from liability under the clause unless some such words as these were inserted. He understood the Government was prepared to accept it, but he should not like the House to think it was an unnecessary Amendment.

**MR. MYER** (Lambeth, N.) asked whether any combination of a men's union with a masters' association against an individual came under the law of conspiracy?

***MR. VERNEY** (Buckinghamshire, N.) ventured to enter a caveat against what had fallen from the late Prime Minister, who seemed to consider the larger combinations so much more dangerous than the smaller. The whole history of trade unionism was a denial of that proposition. He thought the larger a trade union the more responsible was it, and as a rule the more pacific did it become. In the old days when they were smaller and more sporadic, with only local leaders, they were far more dangerous.

**MR. A. J. BALFOUR**: I was not discussing unions of workmen, but of employers.

***MR. VERNEY** said he was going on to mention that the same was true of combinations of employers, which had shown themselves singularly able in recent years to conduct trade disputes by means of conciliation and arbitration. He thought it was a libel upon combinations of employers to say anything else, and those who had lived in the north of England and had watched, as he had had the opportunity of doing, these great combinations of employers and of workmen settling disputes in a peaceful manner, would rejoice in the larger combination of employers as well as of workmen, because between them they hammered out the real truth of these most difficult and complicated matters, and it was only in that way that they could look forward to their peaceful solution.

***VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH** (Maidstone) agreed with the hon. Member for North Buckinghamshire in testifying to the kindly feeling which had existed between employers and employed in the north of England. The question which the previous speaker had raised, however, did not affect the Amendment dealing with the case of the single employer. This was a most important point, and it appeared to him from the Bill that by some means the single employer had certainly been left out of the case. He, for one, favoured combination as against single employers because he felt that far more advantages were to be derived from combination as a counter-balance for the disadvantages the single employer incurred. It was only just and right, however, that single employers should be treated from the same point of view as a combination of employers. He disagreed with the hon.

Member for Denbigh, who apparently considered it was an understood thing that the employer was allowed to act in the manner in which he had acted for the last twenty-five years. He (Viscount Castlereagh) would venture to say that in the future nothing should be understood, but that everything should be clearly defined in the Bill, a Bill which would place in a definite position both trade unions and combinations of employers.

*Mr. CHEETHAM (Stalybridge) trusted the Attorney-General would do whatever was needed to safeguard the rights of individual employers. It would be most unfortunate if this Bill should do anything whatever to prejudice that independent relationship which so many employers preferred to cultivate with their own people. He thought it was only fair that employers who took that view of the matter should have their position left free from doubt.

Question put, and the Amendment with the addition of the words "or firm" agreed to.

Sir JOHN WALTON, in moving to omit the words "peaceably and in a reasonable manner," said the Amendment would not require, he thought, any further remarks by him. All the arguments that could be used in support were stated yesterday, and he did not think the House would ask him to re-state the case.

*Mr. SPEAKER said it would be necessary to divide the Amendment into two, because he understood, from the Amendment given notice of by the hon. Member for Liverpool, that he would accept part of the Attorney-General's Amendment but not the whole.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'peaceably and.'"—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'peaceably and' stand part of the Bill."

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said they had reached one of the most important clauses in the Bill, and one of the most important Amendments. While they on that side of the House had no objection whatever to trade unionists having the power of combination and peaceful persuasion in a reasonable manner if Parliament thought it right, and to the same power being extended to anyone else concerned in trade disputes, at the same time, in view of what had taken place they thought that words must be introduced to safeguard the rights of people who were to be peacefully persuaded. He of course referred to what had taken place during the last two or three months in South Wales. There had been a great deal of persuasion, but he did not think anyone would say it was either peaceful or reasonable, and unless some words of this sort were put in they would have a repetition of the scenes which he was sure they all deplored. In Committee, when an Amendment similar to this was moved by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, the learned Attorney-General made two speeches, and in the second he said—

> "It was of course impossible to accept the Amendment because the discussion had been conducted all through on the assumption that there was this provision in the Bill as it stood."

Therefore they were now faced with this problem: that the Attorney-General refused Amendments in Committee because these words were in the Bill, and yet he was now prepared to abandon the position by which he prevented Amendments being moved. He was sorry the hon. and learned Member for Reading was not in his place, because last night he made an impassioned speech in which he defended the action of the Attorney-General. During the Committee stage the hon. and learned Member was present the whole of the time, and, according to *Hansard*, there was a division after the speech of the Attorney-General, and the vote of the hon. and learned Member was recorded in support of the Attorney-General. It seemed to him absolutely impossible that all these learned Gentlemen had made a mistake. The argument had been advanced that there had been this tremendous change in the Bill because it was found, on consideration, that mistakes had been made, and that it was only a proof of obstinacy not to recognise that when a person had made a mistake he should remedy it, and alter his opinion. With that he entirely agreed, if it were a genuine mistake; but he held it was impossible on a question of law that these two learned Gentlemen should have made a mistake of such a character. He sincerely hoped the proposal of the Attorney-General even now would not be accepted, and that they would be able, if the Bill became law, to ensure that the ordinary person who did not happen to agree with a trade union should have an opportunity of earning his livelihood unmolested. He was sure the Prime Minister would support him in this argument, because, speaking at Norwich on 26th October, 1904, the right hon. Gentleman used these words—

> "I observe that some people who surely have been asleep are asking what is the Liberal policy. It seems to me an idle and an ignorant question. We stand for liberty. Our policy is the policy of freedom. It is the policy of freedom in all things that affect the life of the people—freedom of conscience, freedom of trade, freedom of combination, freedom from injurious privileges and monopolies, freedom for each man to make the best use of the powers and faculties implanted in him—this is our policy."

This clause of the Bill and the Bill itself were absolutely opposed to the last sentiment he had read from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. F. E. SMITH said it might be convenient to the House, as he had an Amendment on the Paper to that just moved by the Attorney-General, if he took the opportunity of making a few remarks. He shared the view that this particular issue had been discussed at great length. His desire was not to repeat the arguments which had already been fully laid before the House. But what was the significance of the Amendment now proposed by the Attorney-General? The issue was an extremely short one—whether the qualifying words "peaceably and reasonably" should be placed on the "attend" or the "purpose." A great deal of talk had taken place on both sides which had not been strictly relevant. This was in the main a legal question. The whole question was whether it was most convenient and clear, and in order that the matter might be most properly dealt with, that the qualification should be attached to "attend" or "purpose." He thought hon. Gentlemen below the gangway were labouring under some considerable misconception. It was the desire of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway as far as possible to keep themselves by this Bill from the slightest risk of coming before the Law Courts and Judge and jury It was not the place or time to consider how far their apprehensions were well founded. No individual could ensure that under no circumstances he should come before the Law Courts. Their object must be to minimise as far as they could the number of occasions on which they could come before the Courts, and as far as possible to simplify the issues on which the Court would have to pronounce. It was quite clear that they and they alone had induced the Government to make this change, because without any desire to be offensive to the Attorney-General or the Government, no one would deny that there had been negotiations and discussions between the Labour Party and the Government since the measure was in Committee, with a view to persuade the Government to adopt the proposal. The question was largely a lawyers' question, and the greatest legal authority in the country had in the meantime modified his views on the strength of representations made below the gangway. The point he was pressing upon those Gentlemen from whom pressure had emanated, was that they had changed now the issue that was going before the jury, and there was strong ground for apprehending that it had brought them more into the clutches of the jury. As the clause originally stood the only test which was a question of fact to be left to the jury, was: "Was the physical attendance of such a character as neither to be peaceable nor reasonable? That of course was not an easy thing to construe, but still juries were at least familiar with it. It was a physical fact and not the state of a man's mind. What was the position in which the jury was placed by the words of the Attorney-General's Amendment? The question for the jury now would be: "For what purpose did the picket attend?" A distinguished Judge said "the Devil himself knoweth not the mind of man." That was exactly what they were proposing to put upon a jury by this Bill. He had given the matter consideration since last night, and he was not disposed to think now that the Amendment which the hon. and learned Gentleman had proposed, with the simple exception of the omission of the word "reasonably," very materially diminished the security for order which was still left by the Bill. But he was confident it added enormously to the uncertainty of the law, and it must necessarily add to the lack of security which hon. Gentlemen below the gangway in their trade unions and organisations would have as to what was legal or not legal. Worst of all, it would throw upon juries not the disputable duty of determining what were the qualifications of the act of attendance, but the difficult duty of ascertaining, aye or no, "Was the purpose for which the picket went there a peaceable purpose or not?"

*Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said it seemed very regrettable that this expression "peaceably" which the Attorney-General desired to remove from the Bill should ever have found a place there. The effect of removing it was very likely to have a disastrous effect. Men would think that they might act under the powers conveyed to them in the Bill in such a way as to constitute anything but a peaceable line of action; whereas if the word had never been inserted and the Attorney-General had not changed his mind under the gentle persuasion of his friends below the gangway, there could have been no feeling of doubt on the point, and the suggestion that peaceable action was no longer essential to their conduct would never have arisen. There was no lack of sympathy in any part of the House with the right of working men to organise themselves; therefore it seemed a most disastrous thing that the Attorney-General should have so frequently changed his mind during the progress of the measure. Reference had been made to the speech of the Prime Minister at Norwich, where he said that it had been asked what was the Liberal policy? It might well have been asked at the early part of this session, what was the policy of the Liberal Government on this subject? They did not know what it was now definitely, but they knew that the word "peaceably" was to be removed with, he ventured to say, probably disastrous effects in the case of future strikes. But what the policy of the Liberal Government was going to be on this Bill before it passed through its final stages, nobody on earth would like to predict. He hoped the word "peaceably" would be retained for the reasons so excellently put before the House by the hon. Member for the Walton Division of Liverpool.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said this point was very fully dealt with last night. It was really a subject on which they had a very interesting discussion and division, and in these circumstances he would advise his hon. friends not again to divide the House.

*Mr. RIDSDALE (Brighton) said that the acceptance by the Attorney-General of the Amendment proposed by the hon. and learned Member for the Walton division of Liverpool had altered the position and rendered the retention of "in a reasonable manner" desirable, seeing that the power was given to an individual trader or firm to send men to attend a rival's place of business for the purpose of inducing men to cease work. Such an act might result in filling up the premises to the obstruction of his business. There would be a special inducement to do this if, when a strike was in progress, a firm's hands had gone out and a rival, having made his peace with the trade union, was still trading. As he read the clause money inducements might be given to the rival's workers to cease work, to the detriment of his lawful business.

Lord R. CECIL said the point raised by the hon. Gentleman opposite required consideration. The Labour Members had, he thought, greatly underrated the effect which the clause would have in the case of a combination of employers. It was as much on that ground, as on other grounds, that he thought they were wrong in accepting some of the Amendments. In regard to the Amendment now before the House, the Attorney-General had argued last night that to say "action taken merely for the purpose of peacefully persuading" was quite as strong as to say that any action could be taken in a peaceable and reasonable manner. What he wanted to urge upon the Attorney-General was this. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that he had given great security for the liberty of the subject by inserting the word "peacefully" before the word "persuading." Was that really so? Did peaceful persuasion differ greatly from persuasion? Was not persuasion essentially a peaceful operation? That was a matter which he thought the Attorney-General ought to consider. The hon. and learned Member for Reading on the previous evening had urged strongly that if a large number of persons went at an unseasonable hour they would never be held to be going there merely for the purpose of peacefully persuading. But the real truth was that they never would be held to be going there merely for the purpose of persuading. If they took fifty men at three o'clock in the morning and walked them to the Attorney-General's house to discuss the Trade Disputes Bill——

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I rise to a point of order. Is not the noble Lord addressing himself to an Amendment which is to be moved later on?

*MR. SPEAKER: No, the noble Lord is strictly addressing himself to the question whether the word 'peaceably' should be retained in the clause.

LORD R. CECIL said he was sorry that he had not made himself perfectly clear to the hon. Gentleman opposite. The point was whether the word 'peacefully' added anything to the use of the word 'persuading.' To say that nobody was to go except in a peaceable manner did make a considerable difference. [Cries of "No."] Some hon. Members did not agree in that, but it appeared to him to make all the difference in the world. What was the manner of going? The manner might be peaceable or not peaceable. It might be such a manner as was likely to lead to a breach of the peace, or was not likely to lead to a breach of the peace. That he took to be the meaning of the word 'peaceably.' Persuasion was essentially a peaceful act, and to say that men were merely going for the purpose of 'peacefully persuading' did not add anything to the use of the word 'persuading,' and that was the argument he desired the Attorney-General to carefully consider. The Attorney-General had stated what he honestly believed to be the case when he said that the words he had introduced met all his prejudices, and that some such words as these were essential to the proper working of the Act. But the question was whether the addition of 'peacefully' to describe the kind of persuading did really add anything to the security which was given by the word 'persuading' alone. He had not yet heard any argument addressed to the House which convinced him that it did. If that was so, he said that this Amendment ought not to be accepted. He agreed with his right hon. friend that the Amendment had been sufficiently discussed.

Question, "That the words 'peaceably and' stand part of the clause, put, and negatived."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 15 and 16, to leave out the words 'in a reasonable manner.'"—(*Sir John Walton.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Question put and negatived, "That the words 'in a reasonable manner' stand part of the Clause."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY moved to insert words with the object of limiting the action of the clause to those people who were "concerned in any such trade dispute." The object of that Amendment was, he thought, very clear, and the reason he thought that these words ought to be inserted was that there was nothing in the clause to prevent people attending at the house of a relative or a workman not concerned in the dispute, where they thought non-union men resided, and when they thought that non-union men might come forward to take the place of the men on strike, and generally interfering with the ordinary business of persons who were not concerned in the dispute. When this Amendment was introduced in Committee the Attorney-General said he did not think it was at all likely that anybody would ever attend peacefully or otherwise to persuade people unless they were actually concerned in a trade dispute. It was pointed out by the noble Lord that there had been cases where people had day by day attended at houses where workmen lodged and so incommoded the owner of the lodging house that he or she had found it impossible to carry on business unless the obnoxious workmen were turned out of the house. That had actually been done, and he believed there was no clause in the Bill which would prevent such abuses. [AN HON. MEMBER: Yes.] He was glad to hear that, because that was a safeguard which he was afraid had not been provided. There was also the case where it was supposed that men would be brought from a distance to fill the vacancies caused by those who were on strike. Under this Bill there would be nothing to prevent a large number of men from going to a town which was not at all concerned in the strike, and they might so intimidate everybody in the town that nobody would dare to come forward to take work in the place where the dispute had arisen. He thought that would be a very bad precedent to establish, and he hoped that that was not the object of hon. Gentlemen below the gangway, because if such an object was desired it was in the direction of establishing a tyranny which had never before existed in this country, and which he believed did not exist in any country in the world. They must not forget that people were sometimes led away by excitement. When they had a large crowd of people assembled they were moved by passion. There was some perverse feeling that swept over them, and they did things which under other circumstances they would not have thought of. The Attorney-General had found that the arguments which he used in regard to these words last August were mistakes, and that in many cases he had given a wrong decision in regard to them. He thought that this was a case in which a wrong decision was given, and he hoped the hon. and learned Gentleman was prepared to-day to accept the Amendment. Unless it could be shown that the evils which he feared were not likely to arise, and that the picket would not be applied to people who were not concerned in any way in a dispute, he was afraid he must trouble the House to go to a division, for he considered this a very important point. It did not in any way affect the principle of the Bill, or the powers which were to be given to trade unions in regard to people concerned in a dispute, and, therefore, he hoped that he would have some support from hon. Gentlemen below the gangway. He begged to move.

*Sir Frederick Banbury.*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'concerned in any such trade dispute.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) thought that this Amendment raised a question of very real and genuine practical importance. His hon. friend had suggested several questions which ought to be considered by the hon. and learned Attorney-General before the Bill passed. Under the clause as it now stood it would be possible, at any rate lawful, to terrorise a considerable community into supporting associations of workmen engaged in industrial disputes. He did not think that powers such as those should be given by a side-wind in a clause concerned merely with trade disputes. Again, under the clause as it stood, it was definitely enacted by Parliament that it was lawful for one or more persons acting in their own behalf or in behalf of trade unions in furthering a trade dispute, to attend in any manner they chose, so long as the purpose of their attendance was peaceful, not only at the place of work of a man not directly concerned in the trade dispute, but at his place of residence for the purpose of coercing his wife and children. Every student of industrial warfare knew that that was a kind of pressure that had been brought to bear. Definite cases arising out of the Taff Vale dispute were to be found in the Appendix to the Report of the Royal Commission. He asked whether it was reasonable and proper to legalise such procedure? He was genuinely apprehensive that that kind of thing would be done if this Bill passed without the Amendment of the hon. Baronet. He did not believe that it would be done by any hon. Member below the gangway, or by responsible trade union leaders, but they all knew that some trade unionists did get out of hand, and they were also told that the control of the trade union leaders over such men was of the shallowest and flimsiest character. He thought that it was not too much to ask that the Attorney-General should consider whether something ought not to be done to prevent what must be regarded as a deplorable, horrible, and unnecessary practice. He begged to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'person,' to insert the words 'concerned in any such trade dispute.'"—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that this was the first time he had intervened in the debates on this stage of the Bill, but he wished to draw attention to the words in the Act of 1875, passed by a Conservative Government. The clause in that Act dealing with picketing said, "or attends near a house or a place where a person resides," should be guilty of an offence. Those words were used without any limitation, and he wanted to know how far that law had been obeyed. From thirty years' experience of Yorkshire and Lancashire since the passing of the Act he could say that he had never heard of a single prosecution under that section. They must rely on past experience, and not introduce words into this clause which would be of no service. This was not a question of legal theory but of practical experience.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said that he was obliged to the hon. Baronet for having given the House a plain and conclusive argument against the apprehensions expressed by the mover and seconder of the Amendment. He was glad that the hon. Baronet had reminded the House that it was not only the duty of persons engaged in trade disputes to conduct picketing operations in the peaceful manner enjoined by this clause, but that it was enjoined by the provisions of the existing criminal law. The Act of 1875 showed that if the operation of picketing was conducted with the view of inducing some person against his will to do or abstain from doing some act which he was entitled to do or abstain from doing, then that operation became a criminal offence, and was liable to punishment. Therefore, there was a very stringent part of the criminal law which was quite sufficient to prevent the operation of picketing being conducted on oppressive, tyrannous, or coercive lines. The hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London thought that the clause as it now stood might be used in some oppressive manner by permitting the picketing, not at the house where the person sought to be interviewed resided, but at the house of someone else who was not interested in the trade dispute. He agreed with the hon. Baronet that that would be oppressive and an abuse of the right of picketing; but it was obvious that the picketers were not in that case actuated by a desire to influence the person by peaceful persuasion, either to work or not to work, but were using their influence for some other purpose which was already covered by the criminal law. For these reasons he thought the Amendment was unnecessary.

LORD R. CECIL thought the Attorney-General and his hon. friend the Member for Wigan were under a misapprehension as to the effect of this clause on Section 7 of the Act of 1875. What he feared was that under cover of this clause it would be lawful for a large number of people to come outside the house of any man, and that the mere presence of such a crowd would lend to intimidate the man through his wife and children. Would any hon. Member say that if a large crowd, who might be peacefully assembled, outside a house where a woman was alone, that would not produce an effect of terror on her mind? The question was whether the clause would not make a very grave change in the law as it now stood. As he understood, the Attorney-General did not think that it would make any important change in the existing law. He did not agree, but believed that it would destroy the watching and besetting section of the Act of 1875. That was an intelligible section. It excepted certain things from the provisions as to "watching and besetting" but otherwise it left the law as to "watching and besetting" as it was before. The effect of this clause would be to destroy the law as to "watching and besetting" under that section altogether, because it enacted that it should be lawful for one or more persons to do both those things.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: With the view to peaceful persuasion, not with the intention of coercion.

LORD R. CECIL: With a view to compel a certain act and with a view to compel people to do that which they did not want to do. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No!"] Then it was a question of the meaning of the word "compel." He would use a neutral word. They certainly wished to induce and they endeavoured to induce with a certain show of force.

*SIR JOHN WALTON: The introductory words of Clause 7 are that if you compel another person, that is to say, if you, with the intention of coercing and not with the intention of peaceful persuasion, watch a house you are criminally liable.

LORD R. CECIL said that if the hon. and learned Attorney-General was right the words at the end of the sub-section would have no meaning whatever, because to attend for the purpose of giving or receiving information could not be for the purpose of compelling any action, and yet the Legislature said it was necessary to put in those words for the purpose of legalising the giving and obtaining of information. The meaning of the section was that persons were not to go in large crowds to a man's house and beset his house in order, whether they called it "compel" or "induce," to lead him to take a certain action. They were not to beset another man's house unless they did it with "lawful authority." That was the meaning of this section, and now the Government proposed to say that it should be lawful for the workmen to do certain things which they would not previously have been authorised to do. What did they say it was lawful to do? They said it was lawful to go with any number of men to a man's house or the place where he was with a view of giving or obtaining information. That was what they were going to enact, and unless they put in some limiting words it would be a very dangerous enactment, because it would legalise the attendance of large crowds at any person's house. They were saying really that their object was to allow people to peacefully persuade. He believed that the object was always to "peacefully persuade." Nobody set out with the intention of causing or committing a breach of the peace, but when they went in a large crowd the breach of the peace followed later. If they were allowed to go in large numbers to another man's house, so long as they went with the intention of "peacefully persuading" a person to work or to abstain from work, they were protected. That was the whole section, and he contended that it was a very dangerous section to enact. He trusted hon. Members below the gangway would believe him when he said that the section was dangerous to whatever class it applied. It was not dangerous only when it was applied to the working classes. He thought the working classes were capable of using their freedom as well as any other class, but it was a dangerous thing to say to any class "You are entitled to go in large numbers if you go with the intention of 'peacefully persuading.'" If they were going to enact that men might go to a place where a man was or where his wife and children were, they were going to confer a privilege upon a particular class which ought not to be given. He therefore thought that the Amendment of the hon. Baronet ought to be accepted.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N. W.) assured the noble Lord that he was labouring under a delusion as to this clause. It did not legalise anything which was not lawful now.

LORD R. CECIL: Will the hon. Member for Clitheroe say that this section does not legalise anything which is now unlawful?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: I think the hon. Member for Clitheroe, if it is not presumption on my part, will entirely agree with what I say.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): It all depends on what you are going to say.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said the grievance which trade unions had was this. Certain Judges chose to narrow down and restrict the legal right to attend for the purpose of merely obtaining or communicating information. This section purported to do by statute what was hitherto the practice and to give to trade unions not only the power of obtaining and communicating information but also the right of "peacefully persuading." Apart from that last proviso the law remained precisely where it was before. That was to say, supposing trade unionists attended outside a person's house in a noisy or disorderly manner, it did not require the magic of the word "peacefully" to prevent the Court or the justices from dealing with such action. The word "peacefully" was quite innocuous. It made no difference in the law even as to the obtaining or the communication of information. It was perfectly true that some of the Judges had held that the attendance must be limited to the purpose of obtaining or communicating information, and that that was a very grievous and harsh decision against the operations of trade unions. But that kind of decision was recently reviewed by the Court of Appeal whose decision was final, as there was no appeal to the House of Lords, and the Court of Appeal held that the view taken by some of the Judges was too narrow, and that the rights of trade unions or of a picket were not limited to communicating or obtaining information. It was held that if they behaved themselves in a reasonable manner they might go to the extent of "peaceful persuasion." He could assure his hon. friends that it was their own imagination that caused them to think there was some hidden and sinister meaning in this sub-section, and that under it a trade union would be enabled to go down and cause a breach of the peace. Every safeguard for the purpose of preventing any unlawfulness would continue.

Mr. F. E. SMITH said that the course of this debate had increased the pride he had always felt in his own profession and the resourcefulness of its members. The hon. and learned Gentleman and other hon. and learned Gentlemen had found salvation on these issues at a late stage of the discussion.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES: Will the hon. and learned Member excuse me, I remain in *status quo ante*.

Mr. F. E. SMITH: Do I understand that the hon. and learned Gentleman did not vote in favour of the amending words "in a reasonable manner."

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES: No, I was always in favour of the words "peaceful persuasion," and always thought that the use of the words "in a reasonable manner" was a trap.

Mr. F. E. SMITH said that as regarded the hon. and learned Gentleman he withdrew what he said, but he could not do so as regarded other hon. and learned Members. As to the particular question before the House he ventured to think that laymen must be put in some difficulty. The hon. and learned Gentleman had just told them in terms that this clause legalised nothing which was not now already legal.

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES: I said it legalises nothing which was unlawful.

Mr. F. E. SMITH said they did not legalise by statute things that were always lawful unless they had a great deal of time at their disposal. The point which he sought to emphasise, although he was an extremely humble member of the legal profession, was that the contention of the hon. and learned Member was inconsistent with the admissions of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General had said on a previous occasion that if they were going to legalise the right of a number of persons to assemble with a view of persuading others, that right should be restricted in some manner by being placed under some reasonable restraint. That was what they wanted. The whole issue on the Amendment of the hon. Baronet was what was the effect of this clause as now amended? On a previous occasion, the Attorney-General laid it down expressly that this clause legalised the right of people to assemble to do what otherwise they would not be allowed to do. He left the issue on that point, all he said being that the responsible legal advisers of His Majesty's Government had said that this clause legalised something which was not legal before. The hon. Baronet who moved this Amendment was reasonable in his contention that some limitation ought to be introduced into the Bill to prevent picketing at the house of a person not interested in the dispute. No one who had followed the course of recent strikes could deny that apprehension in that regard was justified, because those who let lodgings in the neighbourhood in which strikes had occurred had undoubtedly had pressure brought to bear upon them not to let their lodgings to certain men. He did not know whether that could be called intimidation or coercion. But everybody knew that great difficulties had been put in the way of non-unionists in consequence of that pressure when they wished to obtain lodgings. Therefore, it seemed to him that the hon. Baronet's contention was well founded. Let them consider the kind of thing that could be done by a number of men under this clause. It would be lawful for the first time, if this clause was not limited, for people to go in crowds to the house or place of business of a man or woman not implicated in the particular trade dispute, to the woman letting lodgings, or to the tradesman supplying the workmen and their wives and children with the necessaries of life, with results which might be anticipated.

SIR W. ROBSON: It is lawful now under the Act of 1875.

MR. F. E. SMITH said he thought that view had been discussed already. He should have thought it was unlawful in the sense in which it was enacted by this Bill. He merely wished to say in reply to the hon. and learned Gentleman that it was barely possible for lawyers to discuss every detail. He would only say now, not on the directly legal point, that if this Bill was passed in its present shape without the limitations sought to be inserted in it by the hon. Baronet the junior Member for London, it was making legal, pressure which was not legal before.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said this was a difficult point, because lawyers were not always clear or agreed upon it, and when the experts were both obscure and contradictory the unfortunate layman was placed in a very embarrassing position. One hon. Gentleman had indicated by his interruption, and by his views, that it was not relative to the question at this moment to consider whether the clause did or did not add to the number of things which could be done. He evidently misapprehended the main point before the House. If the clause did add to the number of things that could be done, it became a matter of real importance that they should limit the number of people by whom these things could be done. It surely was a reasonable thing to say, if their power was increased, it was quite proper at all events to see that the class of individuals on whom pressure could be brought should be strictly limited to those concerned in the dispute. But did this clause add or did it not to the number of things which combinations of masters and men might do? There, again, there was an absolute divergence of opinion in the lawyers on both sides. His hon. friend the Member for Wigan maintained the opinion that this did not add anything to the powers given by the Act of 1875. The hon. and learned Member for Durham agreed with his hon. friend in that view. But that was not the opinion of other learned friends who had spoken on the opposite side of the House. It was not the view of hon. Gentlemen on the Government side of the House or of the hon. Member for Clitheroe. A clear decision on this point was vitally necessary. If this clause left the law of 1875 simply as it was before, then he admitted that the main argument of limiting the number of persons lost most of its foundation, but if what the hon. and learned Gentleman said was true, then why bring in Section 4? If this did not modify the law and give power to the trade unions, why were the trade unions struggling for it, and why was this House wasting its time in rendering lawful that which was lawful at present? He thought they ought to have some clear explanation on that point. If the clause did not alter the Act of 1875 there was a strong presumption in favour of it if it could be shewn that the Act of 1875 had not led to any abuse. He was not skilled in this subject himself; he had no knowledge either first or second hand. His hon. friend had said that this clause of the Act worked perfectly, that there had been no intimidation, no interference with the subject, and no undue pressure. But that was denied by the hon. Gentleman who followed with the details of trade disputes in which these things occurred. They had therefore two questions raised upon which they had a right to have a little more light thrown. First of all, there was the legal question whether or not this clause added to the power already possessed by trade unions. The second question was whether there had been in the thirty-one years that had elapsed since 1875 any evidence that the power given to the trade unions had been abused, whether it could be said that the Act of 1875 had worked well and had been adequate to prevent that interference with the subject the liberty of whom everybody desired to safeguard. These were two questions upon which he thought some further information was required.

*MR. SHACKLETON said he wished to make this clause quite clear as the representatives of labour understand it. They asked for a re-statement of the law in the sense in which it was understood in the Acts of 1871 and 1875. When the hon. and learned Gentleman said that this did not add anything to the present law he disagreed with him. An interpretation had been placed upon the present law which had so limited the powers of trade unions that it was absolutely impossible for them, as the law was given to them to-day by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords, to peacefully persuade. As trade unionists they had been told by their legal advisers that that was the position under the decisions that had been given. They asked for those decisions to be swept aside and that they might be put into the position in which they were in 1875. These legal questions had not been raised by them; they had been raised by the legal gentlemen who interpreted the law. All they asked for was a re-statement of the law as they understood it to be and as everybody else understood it to be up to six years ago.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS said the right hon. Gentleman, who had complained of the obscurity and contradiction in the legal minds, was probably an expert in contradiction and obscurity. This was an exceedingly difficult question, and probably the contradiction had come about because of the political heat which had been allowed to clog the minds of lawyers. But might he say that the Labour Commission, which sat for several years, and which reported in 1894, said in express terms, that the unions had so conducted themselves as fully to justify the rights conferred on them in 1871. Moreover, they said the conduct of the labour organisations had been such as to justify an extension of those powers. They proposed to clothe the unions with a larger legal personality than that which they had hitherto enjoyed. It was untrue to say that since the unions had been clothed with legality that we had had anything in this country approximating to the old condition of things as typified in the case of Sheffield, when the trade unions were secret societies. The proposal of the Government did nothing more than give effect to the expressed intentions of this House when the Act of 1875 was passed into law. It became necessary because of one decision only, that of Lyon *v.* Wilkin, where the Judges laid it down that peaceful persuasion was not legalised by Section 7 of the Act of 1875. All that this clause did was to say in express terms that peaceful persuasion was legal, as well as getting and receiving information. For this reason he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 50; Noe 298. (Division List No. 367.)

AYES

Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.Sir A. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.HnA.J.(CityLond.)
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil,LordR.(Marylebone, E.)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hunt, Rowland
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, JohnFrederickPeel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. F. E. Smith.

## NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams(Devonp't
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs.Leigh)
Brunner, RtHnSirJT(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt. Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Halsam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkBg'hs.)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crea, George
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Meedan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas.N.(Doncast'r.)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley,W. E. B.(Bradford,E)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thos. W.(Monm'th)

Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. L.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) moved an Amendment to leave out the words "resides or." He understood the object of this Bill was first to safeguard in certain ways the funds of trade unions in the case of peaceful picketing. It had been clearly repudiated on both sides of the House that anything approaching intimidation or violence was to be legalised in any shape or form. The point in his Amendment was that if they legalised the right to go in large numbers to a person's residence for the purpose of peaceful persuasion it was a right that would be exceedingly liable to abuse by those who were trying to abuse their rights; and, secondly, even in the case of those who did not intend to abuse their rights it would be most easily misunderstood by the persons against whom this well-intentioned right was directed. No good reason could be shown why this right to attend in large numbers at a person's house should be legalised. He could quite understand men going to a workplace or other place where a person might happen to be going or coming; that he would imagine to be perfectly peaceable picketing; but for a large number to attend at a man's house did not come within the same category. A case which happened a few days ago, and which had been referred to in the House with the greatest reprehension, afforded a very good instance of the way in which this right might be abused, however anxious persons might be to prevent that abuse. The case was one in which it was thought to be desirable to persuade a man to pay up arrears to his union, and some 200 or 300 men went round his house and scenes of violence ensued. No one justified what occurred on that occasion, and he was only alluding to it as an illustration of the way in which this right might be grossly abused.

MR. J. WARD: The only question is, would this Bill, if passed, allow such things as that?

MR. RAWLINSON said he quite agreed with the hon. Member that that was the point. As far as he read the report of that case it was perfectly possible that the men who went to this man's home had no intention of violence. It was like a row at a football match; they began perfectly peaceably, but something excited the mob and, as he knew from experience, the match ended in disorder. Although it was a joking matter when it concerned football, when it came to going to a man's house where his wife and family resided, it was a serious thing. He was sure the majority of Members did not wish this right to be abused in any shape or form, but if men went in large numbers to another man's house and such conduct was legalised, though the attendance there might begin peaceably it was liable to, and almost inevitably would, end in intimidation and violence. [AN HON. MEMBER: Punish the offender.] What was the use of punishing them after the offence had occurred?

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): You cannot punish them before the offence occurs.

MR. RAWLINSON said they could prevent it. The hon. and learned Member must know that it could be prevented in many ways. They could prevent it by the ordinary machinery of law. The point was whether they were going to prevent the doing of an act which might, and was exceedingly likely to end in violence, and which, if participated in by large numbers, might in any case be mistaken for intimidation. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why not apply the same thing to football matches?] It was because of the protective legislation of football associations that exceedingly good order was kept on the football grounds at the present time. He strongly appealed to the House that it was not a question of trade union funds, but a question that affected the population at large when any kind of trade dispute was proceeding, and he submitted that if they legalised attendance in large numbers at a man's house they would be going perilously near legalising, if not intimidation, a state of affairs which might very likely end in intimidation and possibly in violence.

*VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) seconded the Amendment. He was one of those who believed that peaceful persuasion and picketing were necessary to carry on the objects which trade unions had in view, but he thought they should be limited to business hours and the neighbourhood of the place at which the person to be persuaded worked. It appeared to him that as the matter was connected with a man's work or business the persuasion which was carried on should be at or near that place, and not at the place where the man resided. Moreover he maintained that to allow a large crowd to go to a man's residence was to interfere with the liberty of the individual. A man should feel that in his own home he would at least be immune from persuasion just as a large body of trade unionists were claiming to be immune from prosecution. It was obvious that, if peaceful persuasion were carried on to a large extent at a man's house, there was some factor there which was likely to make that persuasion more successful, and in the words of the Member for Norwood, he maintained that it would be an attempt to terrorise the individual through the medium of his wife and family. On this subject he appealed to the Labour Party. It was to their interest that these words should be omitted. He knew that the Leaders of the Labour Party were as anxious as anyone that trade disputes should be conducted in a reasonable manner and that no harm or violence should result from peaceful persuasion. If these words were included in the clause it would leave open to trade unionists engaged in peaceful persuasion an opportunity, even though they started out with no intention of violence, to break the law. Personally he had every confidence in the Leaders of the Labour Party, but he thought they were inclined to overestimate the power they had over their followers, and he maintained that if this Bill came into force it would necessarily decrease that power. There was a certain unruly section in every trade, and in fact, in every walk of life, and it was obvious that if these men felt that they would not be embroiling their leaders by any act on their part the authority those leaders had hitherto exercised over their followers would naturally decline. He therefore urged the Member for Clitheroe, whom he considered to be vitally in charge of this Bill, to consider this Amendment as one which could not under any circumstances do harm to the objects the hon. Member had in view, but which would tend to secure that which Labour Leaders should have, and he firmly believed had in view, namely, the liberty of the individual in his own home.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the words 'resides or.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'resides or' stand part of the Bill."

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. URE, Linlithgowshire) said the Government could not accept the Amendment. This clause was to legalise not molestation or intimidation, but simply peaceful persuasion. All the speeches on this clause he had heard ignored altogether that fact. There was no intention on the part of the Government to repeal the law as to molestation or intimidation. He agreed that it was only intended to give effect to what trade unionists had believed for the last thirty years was the intention of the law.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somerset, Wellington) said he attached a great deal of importance to these words. There were many cases in which people who worked in factories in small country towns would reside in villages perhaps three or four miles from the town. In the town if there was any riot or trouble outside a man's house there were plenty of policeman within call, but this was not so in the case of country villages, where a man and his family might be liable to serious intimidation. If this Amendment was defeated he sincerely trusted that the suffragettes would form a trade union, and endeavour to peacefully persuade every Member of the present Government.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS wanted to make it perfectly clear what this proposal was. He desired to emphasise this fact from this circumstance that the Chief Whip of the Party opposite had spoken in favour of the Amendment. It was an extraordinary circumstance that they should now have, after the general election, from the Benches opposite, an Amendment which would take away from trade unions a right which they had possessed since 1875. Ever since that year it had been lawful to attend at the residence of any person for the purpose of communicating information in a peaceable way. That right had been enjoyed for a generation and it had never been abused. Surely the general election, whatever else it meant, did not mean that they should take away from trade unions rights which they had so long enjoyed. He sincerely trusted that the right hon. Gentleman opposite would be able to persuade his followers to go with him into the lobby in favour of the Amendment, and then the country would know that the Opposition were not fighting for an extension of the rights of trade unions, but for the repeal of privileges and rights which they had enjoyed for a generations.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said this was not a question of inserting certain words but of retaining them. He desired to point out to his hon. friends that the words they were now dealing with were the same as those in the Act of 1875. Those who referred to the *Hansard* reports for that period would find ample authority in support of that Act, which was supported by statesmen possessing extraordinary power and influence in the country. He did not think it had been fully realised what the effect would be if these words were removed, and he was sure the law could not remain in that state. It would, therefore, become necessary to substitute other words. As far as he was concerned he could not be a party to any reactionary proceeding such as was involved in this Amendment. It appeared to him that if there was to be a riot following peaceable proceedings the law was strong enough to deal with it as a riot, but that was a totally different and independent question. He reminded the House that before the Standing Committee on Law last year they agreed to these words.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) said he always listened with great respect to the opinions expressed by the hon. Member for Wigan, but he was inclined to think that his speech had been delivered under some little misapprehension. He was sure that the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Mid Glamorgan was one which made it necessary that a few words should be said from the Opposition Benches before a division on this important Amendment was taken. For his part he supported the Amendment with his whole heart, because he considered it to be a matter of very great importance. It would come to be important when the vast new powers which this Bill gave began to be put into operation by the trade unions. If there was one thing which an Englishman regarded with strong feelings, and in regard to which he was likely to take the law into his own hands when deprived of the protection of the law, it was intrusion and compulsion brought to bear upon him in the privacy of his own home. There was no need for this section, and it had only been introduced at the bidding of the Labour Party, for it took away the protection hitherto afforded by the English law against nuisance, and against undue interference with a man's personal rights. As the common law stood they might go to a man's house or to his place of business, accost him, and persuade him, and within certain limits they might interfere and obstruct, but they must not go beyond the point which was known as reasonable interference; and if they interfered with a man's home or his rights, or with his business beyond that which an Englishman could be expected to endure he was protected by the common law. This Bill was being passed to take away from him those rights. The hon. and learned Member for Mid Glamorgan had confused the issue by dragging in a reference to criminal proceedings and the criminal law. It was true that long ago Parliament provided that it should be a criminal offence to watch and beset a man's house, but what had that to do with this section? He was speaking of the invaluable right which every Englishman enjoyed to go to the Courts of law and say, "My liberty is being interfered with; my privacy is being invaded; I am being obstructed and coerced beyond that which it is fair or right to expect me to endure, and I ask this Court to issue an order saying that this must stop." That was a right which he was certain was not lightly regarded in this House. If the section passed as it stood men would be deprived of their common law rights. The Amendment asked the House to say that as regarded his home a man ought to be left with the same degree of common law protection as he had at the present time, and if ever there was a proposition put forward which deserved the serious attention of the House of Commons and which was likely to be regarded outside as an important matter, it was the taking away of a man's rights to protect himself from intrusion and coercion in the privacy of his home. It was not so much a question as to what effect this proposal would have upon employers or workmen, banded or unbanded; it was a question as to the effect it would have upon the considerable residue of the people. Hon. Members below the gangway were no more representative of the people as a whole than any brewer or railway director in this House. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] The Labour Members were in Parliament to represent to the best of their ability—and well they did it—the narrow pecuniary interests of their class. [HON. MEMBERS: What about railway directors? What about brewers? Why are lawyers here?] He was not in Parliament to protect the interests of employer or employed, but to protect the interests of the general body of the people. ["Oh."] The powers of interference by coercion given by this Bill were much wider than the House had yet realised, and those powers were not to be restricted in any way. Was it not a fact known to experience that the tendency of boycotting was to spread to other people indirectly concerned? They intimidated A. to force him to yield to their wishes. He resisted their coercion, and what was the next step? They coerced in a similar manner those who were dear to him, or traded with him, or were in a position to bring influence to bear upon him. They first coerced A., and then B. to get A. to yield, and then C. to put pressure upon B. Was it not the common experience in this country that once powers of this kind were instituted, their effect never stopped at the original victim of the persecution, but spread from one to another, with the result that not merely was the workman intimidated, or the parties to the dispute, but also those who dealt with them, and so the vicious circle extended. It was because the powers given by this Bill would affect the daily life, not only of employers, but also of the great mass of the people of the country, that he asked the House whether it would not be right to exempt from the operation of these powers a man's home in which he lived. This proposal was very different from anything suggested in the Report of the Royal Commission, which was so eagerly quoted when it supported the proposals of the Government. Why was the Amendment resisted? What was the real objection to leaving a man in his home with the same protection that he had at the present moment? The reason was that the object of this section was to coerce.

Its supporters did not want to reduce the coercive effect of the section. If they could bring this pressure to bear they would be able to coerce more effectively than if a man could fly to his own home and feel secure there. It was precisely for the reason that he wanted to protect men in their own homes that he should heartily support this Amendment.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said the hon. and learned Member for Mid-Glamorgan had contended that this Amendment would deprive trade unionists of a right which they now possessed. He did not think he was right in that contention. It did not interfere with the right which it was necessary a trade unionist should have to attend at a person's residence with the object of obtaining or giving information which might otherwise be impossible. But that was not necessary in the case of peaceful persuasion. [An HON. MEMBER: It is just the same.] As long as a man stayed at home what harm was he doing to trade unionists? There was not the slightest rhyme or reason why trade unionists should seek a right to attend at a person's home for the purpose of persuading him to stay there. Let the right they were dealing with be confined to the occasions when he came to work. If he was an outworker, and worked at home, he would still come within the remaining words of the clause. The words in this section which it was desired to amend were taken from the Bill of last year which was introduced by the hon. Member for Spen Valley, and he should like to call the attention of the House to the exceedingly strong wording of the Report of the Royal Commission against these particular words. The Report stated—

> "However peaceable the original object may be with which people go to a man's house in order to persuade him, he cannot tell that the result will be peaceable. He may feel that they may turn from a peaceable to a violent object at any moment."

There was no doubt that in the majority of cases a man would be intimidated, and for that reason he should be protected. The Solicitor-General for Scotland had told them that there had been no horrors since 1875, although it had been lawful since that year to attend at a man's residence. He must point out that they had never been allowed to attend for the purpose of persuasion. If they wanted to give or obtain information they did not need a crowd in order to do so, but trade unionists might think it needed a crowd to exercise persuasion. Not only might a serious nuisance be caused, but the fear of violence to wife, children, or property, would amount to intimidation. For these reasons a man's home should be protected. There could be no possible reason for this section. It gave no right to trade unionists except the right of intimidation, and that was a right which they professed they did not require. He hoped the right hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Treasury Bench would see that they were under this section legalising intimidation, because whether there was intimidation or not, depended, not upon the object of the people attending, but upon the impression produced upon the mind of the person at whose home they attended.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.) said it had been stated that the retention of the words under discussion would in no way change the law, but in spite of that statement arguments had been submitted as though the retention of the words would considerably alter legislation. They had heard a great deal about sympathy with the working classes, and much about the sacredness of his home, but he declined to accept that sympathy as genuine so long as he saw cases like that which occurred recently, in which hired bailiffs and all the instruments of the law were used to turn from their homes men, women, and children because a workman would not conform to certain conditions of service. The cries of the women and children of England did not appear to reach the ears of hon. Gentlemen who taunted Labour Members with representing a narrow, pecuniary interest. It had been said that there was great danger in permitting people to assemble in large numbers, and that it would lead to some offence. There was risk in permitting large bodies of people to assemble at a football match, but his hon. friends did not suggest legislation to prevent people so assembling. They knew that even now employers had secret means of influencing and persuading people at their homes. In these matters trade unionists only desired to have equal opportunities with the employers. The wicked workman in connection with this question of picketing had been frequently held up as a man who desired to break the law at every opportunity for his own purpose. [Cries of "No."] That was not the way the case was presented, but that was the effect of the arguments used. They required nothing more than equality of opportunity with the employer. Employers sent their managers and foremen and agents to the homes of the workmen to persuade them, and they were only asking for a similar right for trade unionists.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said he had always been a most strenuous advocate of the establishment of trade unions, but he did not believe in the tyranny of the men any more than in the tyranny of the masters. It was the duty of the House of Commons to look after not only trade unionists but also those who were not trade unionists. If he were a working man he should join a trade union, but a man had a perfect right to go upon individualistic principles if he liked, and it was not right for men to attend at that man's home in the manner complained of. The illustrations which had been given showed how this power might be abused, and how a great crowd might surround a house. The Labour Party claimed a right to approach any individual man, and to put their arguments quietly and reasonably before him. That was a fair and reasonable demand, and if that was the real demand of trade unionists let them show their *bona fides* by accepting this Amendment. He did not appeal to the Attorney-General on this point, because they all knew that those who wielded the real power in shaping these clauses were the hon. Members who sat below the gangway. If the House adopted the Amendment they would do away with any suspicion that trade unionists were going to terrorise by surrounding his house any man who differed from them.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 320; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 368.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B(Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams(Devonp't)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn Sir J T. (Cheshire
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Invernes Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. w.
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R R
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H(Sussex, E Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody

Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hn. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hills, J. W.
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(SomersetN.)
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro')
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thos. (W.Monm'th)
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Roberton,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Sir C.E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, P. W. (St Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd.
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt.HnSirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.HnA.J. (City Lond
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil Lord R (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hunt, Rowland
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-ColAR
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Percy, Earl
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hn. W. F.D. (Strand)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Rawlinson and Viscount Castlereagh.

MR. RAWLINSON, in moving to leave out the words "or happens to be," said that this Amendment raised a point very similar to the last. The point of the last Amendment was whether people should have the right to attend at a man's house; the question raised by this was whether they should have a right to attend a man wherever he happened to be. That included the powerful right of following a man about from place to place. He would only add a word to what he had already said, and that was to contradict as strongly as he could the assertion of the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorganshire, that this was not making an alteration in the law. The hon. Member had referred to Section 7 of the Act of 1875. It did not touch this point in any shape or form. It dealt with the criminal law, and said what was to be done when the act was of a criminal nature. What was done by this Bill? What the intention of the Attorney-General was was immaterial. What was done by this section as it stood was to legalise men going in large numbers to attend, either at a man's home, or at the place where he might happen to be. He could give no better illustration of the inconvenience and nuisance of such shadowing than that which was given by the right hon. Gentleman when he instanced the case of the ladies popularly called "suffragettes." No one could doubt that if a large body of such ladies followed about from place to place any Members of Parliament whom they might desire to peacefully persuade,—to their homes, to railway stations, or wherever they might happen to be—the law as it stood would deal with that state of affairs. An injunction would be granted if what they did amounted to a nuisance at common law. No one could doubt that if they came continually to attend one at his home or at other places the law provided a remedy although there might be no violence. In order to put this action in order, so far as trade disputes were concerned, an Amendment was necessary. It would not alter the law so far as political matters were concerned. There would always be the protection so far as they were concerned which the law at present afforded. But by the very wide definition of "trade dispute" the protection at present given to Members of Parliament was taken away, and the action of people who attended in large numbers at a person's house or at the place where he might be was legalised. He hoped he was not out of sympathy with working men in this matter. He was putting this not on any class ground, but merely on the ground of the rights of the people at large. If they were going to extend this law generally to trade disputes they ought not to do anything to authorise peaceful molestation, if he might use such a phrase. [AN HON. MEMBER: "Oh."] The hon. Member might say "oh," but had he never come across cases where people had been shadowed by persons of honest intention and with no intention of using violence, but for the purpose of persuading those whom they followed? Everybody knew what a very powerful form of persuasion it was, and how exceedingly unpleasant for the victim of it. He ventured to say that this was an objectionable alteration in the law, and he hoped the House would see its way, at all events, to restrict the right to attend to the places where persons lived or worked.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER seconded the Amendment. He was one of those who thought that if the law now existing in relation to matters of boycotting and picketing was changed, it ought to be in the direction of restricting the present powers and not in the sense of extending them. If the words which were challenged by this Amendment remained, the victim of the conduct authorised by this section would lose the protection which the law now afforded, on the hypothesis that it was illegal at the present moment and could be restrained by injunction, because, if that was not so, the section was meaningless and unnecessary. Under the section it would be possible not merely for the victim to be attended at his home and his work, but to be followed about and shadowed, and to be accosted at any time. These were the well-known effects of a system under which there would be no rest from persecution, night or day. He thought those who, like himself, regarded with the greatest apprehension the change which this section was designed to produce in the law which at present protected the daily life, liberty, seclusion, and privacy of all, should resist at every stage the attempt to reduce those rights which some of them, at any rate, considered of the greatest importance.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out the words 'or happens to be.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the picture which his hon. and learned friend the Member for Cambridge University had drawn of the danger not only to those engaged in a trade dispute, in the ordinarily accepted use of that term, but to Members of this House was one which deserved some consideration. It was well known to everybody that there were matters on which the views held by hon. Members were not absolutely identical with, or easily reconcilable with, the views of men and women who engaged in trade disputes. There were questions which would come up from time to time in this House, and if they were to be peacefully persuaded at all times when they were moving about from place to place he did not think that their lot would be quite happy. Personally he had the greatest dislike to being over-persuaded, and he did not wish opinions with which he disagreed to be urged upon him not only at proper times and seasons but in all places by quite irresponsible advisers. He imagined that most of those whom he was addressing would feel that he was not exaggerating their own sentiments in similar circumstances. He thought that the Government had not taken quite sufficient account of the abuse to which this clause was open when they urged that it could not lead to anything in the nature of intimidation or undue pressure. He agreed that they did not desire that to be the effect of the clause, but were they quite clear that they had so framed the words that the picture which his hon. and learned friend had drawn could never be realised in practice? It was a difficult matter of legal construction, but he submitted with great deference that proceedings which were to be authorised as peaceful persuasion might become intolerable to everybody connected with a trade dispute, whether as employer, workman, or legislator. They were all agreed upon what they wanted, and it was really a question of legal interpretation. If the Government could show that his hon. and learned friend was wrong in his interpretation of the clause, well and good; but if not he thought it was their duty on this or some other occasion to introduce limiting words which would prevent the abuse of "persuasion." If the clause was passed as it stood they would not be able in future to deal with at common law a nuisance which could now be so dealt with.

SIR JOHN WALTON said the right hon. Gentleman had, somewhat unintentionally perhaps, raised the controversy which engaged the House for some hours on the previous night, because the whole question then was whether the words they had introduced, and which afforded a test of the motive and the purpose for which an interview was sought, incidentally involved all the restrictions for the protection of individual liberty. He had certainly tried to show that in the view of the Government they had performed the task which they had endeavoured to accomplish. What was, speaking generally, the right authorised under this section? It was simply the right of seeking an interview with a man with the object of inducing him to join a section of his fellows who proposed to give up work. That, surely, was a legitimate object, and if there was not some provision which would allow of its accomplishment it would be impossible to carry on any industrial agitation in the nature of a strike. No one wished that the interview should be sought under circumstances which would inspire fear in the person with whom it was sought. No one wished that a person should be approached with any other object than that of appealing to his reason and sense of fairness in reference to the question agitating his fellows. The clause was framed so that no such interview could be lawfully sought unless with the object he had indicated. If that were true, and if that test were fairly applied, and if the operation successfully bore that test, then he said that incidentally they safeguarded public order and private right. Let him remind the right hon. Gentleman that what he said last night was this. In an ordinary case if there was one man to be persuaded a couple of trade unionists might be got to wait upon him at his house, or at his place of work, or if he was inside a refreshment house havinga cup of tea or a chop, they might wait and speak to him when he came out, and the extraordinary absurdity of the Amendment was that while it was possible to wait on a man at his residence, place of business, or the works where he was engaged, it would be unlawful to wait until he came out of the shop where he was drinking a cup of tea or getting other refreshment. They were seriously asked to adopt an Amendment of that kind. What he said was that it was obvious that if a crowd was taken to persuade one man, the object was intimidation. What inference would a tribunal draw from the fact that a large body of persons were taken where one or two persons would have been sufficient? It would be inferred that the operation was for the purpose of inspiring fear. If the method adopted were one to cause unnecessary pain, embarrassment, or injury, what was the inference which they would draw? It would be said that it was obvious that it was not the man's reason to which they were seeking to appeal. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of a nuisance being created. He maintained that this test was sufficient for all purposes, and that they got a better guarantee for individual liberty and public order by imposing a test of the purpose or motive with which the proceeding was conducted than by endeavouring to fence it round by a series of express limitations which might be subject to evasion and in times of excitement be thrust aside.

Mr. F. E. SMITH said he had the good fortune to find himself in almost complete agreement with the hon. and learned Attorney-General, but there were some observations which he wished to make on the speech he had just delivered. The Attorney-General had said that in every case in which a large number of men assembled for the purpose of peaceful persuasion, the Court would draw the irresistible inference that intimidation was intended. With the greatest respect he ventured to reply that that was just one of those cases in regard to which they ought to have some guarantee. The hon. Gentleman below the gangway had bitterly opposed such a guarantee, and his object, and that of his Party, was now perfectly clear. It must be obvious that a great deal of the controversy which had taken place would have been avoided if the intention of Parliament could be clearly construed from the words of the Bill. The common view was that the attendance of men at a house in large numbers was some evidence of intimidation, but according to the language of the Attorney-General it was conclusive evidence. He was unable to assent to that view. Was there a single Member below the gangway who would say that that was the effect of the Bill? If the Attorney-General would embody in the measure a single Amendment securing that result, no other Amendments would be moved on that point. The hon. and learned Gentleman had said that the whole question was that two or three trade unionists might be only seeking an interview. It was not a question of seeking an interview, but of imposing an interview, and that made the greatest possible difference. The present form of words was open to considerable objection. All that they asked was that the Attorney-General should accept an Amendment which would secure that no man might be lawfully followed and shadowed from his house to his place of business and back from his place of business to his house. They asked nothing except that that man should be protected from an interview that he did not desire. As the Bill stood at present the man was unprotected.

*SIR JOHN WALTON said he had already pointed out that the proposed words in the Amendment suggested by the hon. and learned Gentleman were absolutely unnecessary. He maintained that the test was as perfect as human ingenuity could frame it. In regard to numbers, all he said was that, if the number was clearly more than was required for the purpose of peaceful persuasion, the inference would be that it was for some collateral purpose, and if that were so, then the right exercised under the clause would be abused. The mere purpose of persuasion must regulate the numbers.

LORD R. CECIL said he ventured to appeal to the hon. Member for Clitheroe, who throughout the discussion had shown the utmost straightforwardness and clearness of statement, whether he agreed with the Attorney-General that if a larger number of people attended than was absolutely necessary for the purpose of peaceful persuasion, that was clear evidence that there was some other purpose?

*MR. SHACKLETON said he had no desire to prolong the discussion, but as his opinion had been requested, he was quite willing to give it. He held that the words proposed by the Government on this matter, coupled with the tribunal before which these cases would be brought, would amply secure all the peaceful conduct which hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House asked for. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about numbers?] He was not going to say anything about numbers which had to be reckoned according to the dispute. There was an Amendment on the Paper which said that the number of persons attending should not exceed the number of persons it was sought to persuade. The statement that a thousand men might be picketed by a thousand men was absurd, but under the Amendment they would have the power to do it. What the Labour Party meant was to peacefully persuade, and to give information in a peaceable manner. It must be remembered that the first Court to which these cases would go would be composed of men the majority of whom were chosen from the employers, and who would be in sympathy with those with whom the men happened to be in dispute. That was a sufficient guarantee that any act which the trade unionists committed would be closely scrutinised. He hoped that the Attorney-General and the Government would not consent to any limitation of numbers in regard to picketing. They knew why the Opposition wanted it. The words "or happens to be," should not be omitted from this Bill. Before a strike began, the employers would send their manager or agents to the men who had sent in their notices to endeavour to persuade them not to carry out what they had promised to their union, but to go to work. Was it to be an illegal thing for him, or for anybody representing his union, if he happened to meet a man in a public library, or in a public park, or in a public-house (where he did not go often) to say a word to that man? That was the proposal. [OPPOSITION cries of "No, no."] The words of the clause were "or happens to be." If they struck out those words they strictly limited trade unionists to certain places where peaceful picketing could be done. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about numbers?] Numbers had nothing to do with it. The only object of striking out these words was that if they happened to speak to a man peacefully, to ask him not to break his contract with his union, and say, "Don't succumb to the employers," it should be said that they were breaking the law. He was surprised that the representatives of the Tory Party, when the law of the land had existed for thirty years, should come down to the House of Commons in the year 1906, and want them to put their own Act of Parliament in the waste-paper basket. The object of the Opposition was not to prevent peaceful persuasion, but to land trade unionists in the clutches of the law. They had heard of this before. They had received circulars from the Employers' Association, addressed to Members of Parliament, and the whole object of these Gentlemen who were representatives of the employers, was, by this Amendment, to defeat the clause itself. He appealed to the Government, though he did not think it necessary to appeal. There had been no change in the attitude of the Government in this matter. These words had appeared in more than one Act of Parliament. The Government had gone to a Conservative Act of Parliament and copied the words, word by word, from that Act into their own Bill. The Opposition ought to be ashamed of their present attitude. The House understood their object, and he hoped the Amendment would be rejected by an overwhelming majority.

MR. BONAR LAW said that his noble friend was perfectly right when he said that the hon. Member for Clitheroe would give the House a straightforward answer to the question put to him. He had made a most telling and effective speech in favour of the case made out by the Opposition. He did not agree in one iota with the argument of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General had made the clear statement that under the clause which he proposed the numbers would be limited to a reasonable number.

SIR JOHN WALTON: That is not the case.

MR. BONAR LAW said that the hon. and learned Gentleman said that he never made such a statement; but they heard him say that if two or three people went to peacefully persuade a man, or give him information, that was carrying out the law; but that, if a larger number went, the interpretation of the Court would inevitably be that that was more than was absolutely necessary. The hon. Gentleman below the gangway entirely repudiated that, and claimed that a large number might be necessary to carry out the picketing. He admitted that this was largely a question of legal interpretation, but he pointed out that lawyer after lawyer—and good lawyers too—had declared that the interpretation of the law by the Attorney-General was a wrong interpretation. [Cries of "No" from the Opposition benches."] The hon. and learned Member for Liverpool.——

MR. F. E. SMITH said that, by leave of the House, he might be allowed to say that a large number of legal points had arisen between the Attorney-General and himself, and what had occurred was that on some of the questions of legal construction he was not in agreement with the Attorney-General; but there were one or two in which he did concur.

MR. BONAR LAW said that that was exactly the answer he knew would be given. One point on which the hon. and learned Gentleman did not agree with the Attorney-General was that the Court would inevitably decide that the attendance of more than a certain number of persons was a contravention of the law. In Committee the hon and learned Gentleman had himself admitted that other words were necessary, so that he had only at the last moment taken the view he had now expressed. If this was purely a matter of legal interpretation on which lawyers differed, he could not understand why the hon. and learned Gentleman should refuse to make the point perfectly plain and clear in the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that not a single observation made by the hon Member for Dulwich bore on the Amendment now before the House. At present the House was dealing with the question not of numbers, but whether or not peaceful picketing should be allowed, not only at his place of business or his house, but where a man "happens to be." The hon. Gentleman had said that numbers as such did not come into the question, but the Attorney-General had never said that the mere question of numbers should determine the matter. He was not talking of the justice of the Amendment. The words of the clause had been taken from the Act of 1875, passed by a Tory Government, and the Tory Party were now attempting to repeal a portion of that Act, and to take away from the trade unions the privileges which they had enjoyed for thirty years. The effect of the Amendment would be that in every case a workman could not be spoken to in the street, and the picketers would be driven to the man's house, thereby limiting the occasions and the places where peaceful picketing could take place. It was becoming clear that the speeches of hon. Members opposite were not in favour of the Amendment, but against peaceful picketing. Peaceful picketing was now part of the law of the land, and a right which they on that side of the House thought ought to be enjoyed by trade unionists.

MR. RAWLINSON said that he had found after the discussion that the Amendment went somewhat further than the case he was anxious to meet. He therefore asked leave to withdraw.

Leave not being granted—

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 317; Noes, 44. (Division List No. 369).

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W. C. B (Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.

Bethell, J. H.(Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs. Leigh
Brunner, Rt.HnSirJT(Cheshire
Bryce, Rt.Hn James (Aberdeen
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hn. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(SussexE.Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox. Harold
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St. PancrasN
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Chas.
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.

Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hills, J. W.
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Howard, Hn. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD.Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John(Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.

MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Williams
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Chas. Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford,E
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, N. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. Dundee)
Robertson, Sir GScott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)

Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. D. R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn Sir A. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hn. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C W
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. Salter.

Amendments proposed—

"In page 1, line 18, after the word 'of' to insert the word 'peacefully.'"

"In page 1, line 19, after the word 'of' to insert the word 'peacefully.'"

Amendments agreed to.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY moved to add the following proviso:—"Provided always that nothing in this section shall exempt any person from liability for trespass." He thought that these words should be inserted to preserve the rights which the community hitherto had enjoyed. Reference had been made to an occasion when a number of persons opened a door and went up into a man's room, and it was stated by one of the hon. Members below the gangway that the Bill would justify the breaking open of a man's door. His Amendment was intended to stop that sort of thing, and afford persons the protection of the ordinary law. The Attorney-General had said that if a number of men went to a man's house and did anything which was unreasonable then the Courts of law would interfere; but the opinion of an hon. and learned Member of that House, however eminent, would not affect the decision of a Court of law. He had always thought that an Englishman's house was his castle, and that he was entitled to its protection. His Amendment would not interfere with the right of hon. Members below the gangway to influence workmen by means of "peaceful persuasion."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, at end to add, "Provided always that nothing in this section shall exempt any person from liability for trespass."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*Sir JOHN WALTON thought the words were unnecessary, as the case which the hon. Member contemplated would be met by the ordinary law, and there was nothing in the section which abrogated that law.

Mr. BOWLES said that while he accepted the statement of the hon. and learned Member that there was nothing in this clause to abrogate the law of trespass, a course which would be extremely undesirable, as a layman he did not understand how an enactment in specific terms to the effect that it was lawful for more than one person to attend upon any other person, not only at his residence, or at his works, but wherever he happened to be, could be said not to abrogate the law of trespass.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 46; Noes, 305. (Division List No. 370.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn.Sir Alex.F
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Duncan,Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hunt, Rowland
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich.
Liddell, Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Viscount Castlereagh and Mr. Bowles.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hn.W.C.B. (H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,Sir J.Williams (D'v'np'rt
Benn,W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W.B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner Rt.Hn.Sir J. T. (Ches.

Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. G'nst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunn, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)

Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Sw'nsea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Ac'ngton
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.

Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)

Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (M'thyr
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*SIR JOHN WALTON moved "That the Question 'That the words of the Bill to the end of page 1, line 23, stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question 'That the words of the Bill to the end of page 1, line 23, stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 294; Noes, 47. (Division List No. 371.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hn. W.C.B. (H'x'm
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs. Leigh
Brunner, Rt.Hn. Sir J.T. (Ches.
Bryce, Rt.Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.Hn. Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh)
Dickinson, W. H. (S. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Freeman
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.

Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Ac'ngton)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nannetti, Joseph P
Nicholls, George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal (Tip'rary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott (Br'df'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palme
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,Sir J.T.(Hud'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

## NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish,Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)

Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hunt, Rowland
Kimber, Sir Henry
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Stanley Wilson and Lord Robert Cecil.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered upon Monday next.

---

## ADJOURNMENT.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorks., W.R., Pudsey), in moving "That the House do now adjourn," said that the Trade Disputes Bill would be the first business on Monday, and that it was the intention of the Prime Minister to move the suspension of the eleven o'clock rule in order to finish the Report stage. The Merchant Shipping Bill would be the second order.

Motion made, and Question, "That the House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at a quater before Five o'clock till Monday next.

[APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX I.

# PUBLIC BILLS

## DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLXIII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

### (A.) House of Lords.

| Title of Bill. | Brought in by | Progress. |
|---|---|---|
| *Education (England and Wales) | *Earl of Crewe* | Motion to go into Committee 25th October (297)<br>Committee 29th October (590)<br>Committee 30th October (816)<br>Committee 31st October (1010) |
| Public Slaughter Houses [H.L.] | *Earl of Donoughmore* | Committee 23rd October (20) |
| Sale of Intoxicating Liquor (Ireland) | *Earl of Mayo* | Read $2^a$ 23rd October (20)<br>$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text{Committee}\\\text{Report}\end{array}\right\}$ 24th October (710)<br>Read $3^a$ and passed 1st November (1222) |

### (B.) House of Commons.

| Title of Bill. | Brought in by | Progress. |
|---|---|---|
| Employment of Barmaids | *Mr. Gooch* | Read $1^o$ 31st October (1134) |
| *Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) | *Mr. Lloyd-George* | Report 23rd October (61) |
| *Plural Voting | *Mr. Harcourt* | Committee 24th October (186)<br>Committee 25th October (432)<br>Committee 26th October (521)<br>Committee 29th October (720)<br>Committee 30th October (900)<br>Committee 31st October (1139) |
| *Trades Disputes | *Sir John Walton* | Report 1st November (1349)<br>Report 2nd November (1452) |

# APPENDIX II.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1906.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

*In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.*

| Title of Paper. | Date from which the Period runs. | Period to lie upon the Table. |
|---|---|---|
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Cambridge, on the 9th February 1906, repealing Statute XXXIV. of the Statutes of the College and substituting therefor an amended Statute XXXIV. [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge),—Copy of Statute made by the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge on the 23rd March 1906, altering Statute A., Chapter II., Degrees, Section 19, Affiliated Colleges, of the Statutes of the University [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Merton College, Oxford, on the 3rd March 1906, altering Statute V. 3 (b) of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 28th February 1906, altering Statute XIII. (1) of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Queen's College, Oxford, on the 15th June 1906, altering Statute II., 21, and Statute IX., 3, respectively, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of St. John's College, Oxford, on the 4th May 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 8, and Statute XVI., Clause 3, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic. c. 48, s. 49] | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford),—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of All Soul's College, Oxford, on 24th February 1906, altering Statute III., Clause 7, of the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 49) | 23 October | 12 weeks |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Middleton, Smethwick, and Neath, of the County Borough of Huddersfield, of the Councils of the County of Gloucester, and of the Urban Districts of Aberdare, Willesden, and Mountain Ash, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Barbers' and Hairdressers' Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 23 October | 40 days |

| Title of Paper. | Date from which the Period runs. | Period to lie upon the Table. |
|---|---|---|
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Cities of Bradford and Cardiff, of the County Borough of Newport, of the Borough of Bridlington, and of the Urban District of Hindley, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 23 October | 40 days |
| Factory and Workshop Acts (Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries),—Copy of Regulations made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for use of Locomotives and Wagons on lines and sidings in or used in connection with premises under the Factory and Workshop Act [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 84] | 23 October | 40 days |
| Victoria (The Constitution Act, 1906),—Copy of The Constitution Act, 1906 (Victoria) [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 32] | 23 October | 30 days |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the Early Closing of certain Shops in the Burghs of Fort William, Dundee, Johnstone, Grangemouth, Renfrew, Arbroath, Helensburgh, and Falkirk [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 23 October | 40 days |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Council of the City of Cardiff, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Bootsellers' Shops within part of the Central Ward, within the Cathays, Park, Roath, and Adamstown (part of) Wards of the City [4 Edw. VII., 3. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 25 October | 40 days |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of two Orders made by the Council of the County of Glamorgan, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the Coedffranc Parish and Maesteg Urban District [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 25 October | 40 days |
| Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898,—Copy of Draft Order in Council altering the Scale set out in the second Schedule to the Act for the purpose of the levying of the Light Dues in pursuance of the Act [61 and 62 Vic., c. 44, s. 5 (3)] | 25 October | 30 days |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the County Borough of Londonderry, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, Closing certain Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 81, s. 3 (3)] | 26 October | 40 days |
| Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Urban District Council of Wexford, and confirmed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)] | 29 October | 40 days |
| Public Records (Prisons),—Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Prison of the Marshalsea of the Court of King's or Queen's Bench, the "Queen's Prison," the Fleet Prison, and the Prison of the Marshalsea of His Majesty's Household and Palace Court, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1] | 1 November | 4 weeks |

# INDEX

TO THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

## TWELFTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

*OCTOBER* 23—*NOVEMBER* 2.

---

### EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report.

Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

---

**Abraham, Mr. W.** [Cork County, N.E.]
Soldiers, Maintenance of when Incurably Disabled — Case of Lance - Corporal Gray, *Nov. 1*, 1299.

**Abyssinia**
Agreement between Great Britain, Italy and France, Consent of Emperor Menelik to, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Nov. 1*, 1328.
Harrar, Governor appointed to.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 879.

**Acland-Hood, Rt. Hon. Sir A.** [Somerset, Wellington.]
Business of the House; Course of, *Nov. 2*, 1451.
Divisions, Doors not locked during—Loss of Time, *Oct. 24*, 287.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 287.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1485.

**Adair Estate**
Reinstatement Claim of T. Flanagan.
*Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 898.

**Admiralty**
*First Lord*—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
*Financial Secretary*—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.

**Africa**
British Protectorates, etc., Surveys and Exploration of—Annual Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.
Northern Territories Order in Council, 1906. Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

**Africa, Central**
British Protectorate.
Chiromo Game Preserve, Decision as to area and purpose of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1319.
Christian Schools and Churches in Native Villages, Regulations as to Erection of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1319.
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.
Convention as to delimitation of French and English Frontier East of the Niger, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 36.
Sleeping Sickness, Proposals for Study of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31*, 1099.

**Africa, East**

Order in Council 1906, Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

Portuguese Territory—Native Labour Recruitment Facilities afforded to Robinson Group of Mines.
*Q.* Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25*, 393.

**Africa, South**

(*See also* Names of Colonies.)
Self-government Proposals, Committee of Inquiry into Report, Date of Tabling.
*Q.* Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 29*, 718, 719.

Swazis—Statement as to Imperial Control, made by Lord Selborne.
*Q.* Sir B. Gurdon; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29*, 673, 674.

**Africa, West**

Administration of British Colonies—Formation of Council proposed.
*Q.* Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1325.

British West Africa Produce Company, Ltd., Prospectus of and Concessions to—Name of Chairman, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. J. D. White, Sir J. Jardine, Mr. Smeaton; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1320–1323.

Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Principé, etc., Condition of Coolie Labour in.
*Q.* Sir B. Gurdon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 29*, 675.

**Aghanville Ranch**

Sale Proposals for.
*Qs.* Mr. Delany; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1307, 1308, 1344.

**Agriculture**

Ireland—Statistics Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 39, 40.

**Agriculture and Fisheries, Board of**

*President*—Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.

Proceedings—Annual Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 42.

**Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland**

Veterinary Branch Staff, Duties and Pay of.
*Q.* Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 26*, 514.

**Aland Islands**

Russian Occupation, Information as to.
*Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 25*, 411.

**Alden, Mr. P.** [Middlesex, Tottenham]

Whitechapel Poor Law Guardians, Attitude of, towards Outdoor Relief, *Oct. 31*, 1115.

**Algeria**

Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Aliens**

Birow, S., T. Genen and J. Gureivitz, Cases of.
*Qs.* Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 885, 886.

Convictions and Expulsions, Information as to.
*Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 678.
Expenses, Payment of.
*Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 695.
Expulsion Orders, Decisions as to Enforcement.
*Q.* Sir W. Evans Gordon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1106.

Foreign Working Men Expelled from Prussia, Eligibility of, for Admission to Great Britain.
*Qs.* Sir W. Evans Gordon; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1105, 1106.

Gipsies, *see that title.*

Undesirables not Admitted to United States, Treatment of, on Arrival in England.
*Qs.* Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 881, 882.

**Aliens Act, 1905**

Return as to Passengers from European Ports and Number of Expulsion Orders, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 38.

**Alverstone, Lord**—*Lord Chief Justice.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. Oct. 31*, 1031.

**Ambrose, Dr. R.** [Mayo, W.]

Agriculture Department, Veterinary Branch Staff, Duties and Pay of, *Oct. 26*, 514.

Innishlyre Marine Works, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 683.

**Ampthill, Lord.**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 599, 608, 642–44; *Oct. 31*, 1038, 1039; *Nov. 1*, 1226–1230.

Indian Legislative Council, Representative Element in—Proposals as to Extension, *Oct. 23*, 29–31.

**Anson, Sir W. R.** [Oxford University]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com. Oct. 24*, 225–228, 279.

**Anstruther-Gray, Maj.** [St. Andrew's Burghs]

Bayonet—Decision as to Pattern, *Oct. 29*, 685.

Duke of York's School Site, Disposal of, *Oct. 29*, 685.

Edinburgh—Retention of Cavalry Regiment, *Oct. 25*, 401; *Oct. 31*, 1090.

[*cont.*

**Anstruther-Gray, Maj.**—*cont.*
Glastonbury Abbey, Projected Sale of, *Oct. 25,* 394.
Rosyth—Decision as to Naval Base, *Oct. 25,* 394.

**Argentine Republic.**
Finances (1905–6) Report, Presented, *Oct. 23,* 4.

**Arigna.**
Railway Extension to, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. James O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30,* 859.

**Army.**
*Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
*Parliamentary Secretary*—Earl of Portsmouth.
*Financial Secretary*—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
Bayonet, Decision as to Pattern.
*Q.* Maj. Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29,* 685.
Bremner, Mr. D., Case of
*Q.* Mr. Salter; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30,* 872.
Cavalry Distribution—Decision as to Quartering of Regiment in Scotland.
*Qs.* Maj. Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 25,* 401; *Oct. 31,* 1090.
Coldstream, Third Battalion—Allowance for Travelling Expenses.
*Q.* Col. Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Oct. 30,* 877.
Drake, Henry, Cowley Barracks Engineman, Case of.
*Q.* Mr. Morrell; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 25,* 407.
Enfield Factory, Wages of Labourers in.
*Q.* Mr. Branch; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29,* 686.
Expenditure under Military Works Acts—Estimate Presented, *Oct. 23,* 13, 43.
Inniskilling Dragoons, Sixth—Reason for Selecting Yeomanry Officers for Attachment.
*Q.* Viscount Castlereagh; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30,* 875.
Military Instruction in Schools, *see that title.*
Nurses, Amusements Permitted to.
*Qs.* Mr. Rendall, Mr. C. Edwards; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1,* 1315, 1316.
*Personnel,* Reduction of
Disbanded Regiments—Disposal of Officers, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Salter; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30,* 873.
Pimlico Clothing Factory
Piecework, Payment for
*Q.* Mr. Brodie; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29,* 673.

**Army**—*cont.*
Pimlico Clothing Factory—*cont.*
Reduction in Prices, Proposals as to.
*Qs.* Mr. Summerbell; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 25,* 406, 407.
Soldiers
Civil Employment for, on Discharge.
*Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1,* 1299.
Disabled and Incurable, Maintenance of—Case of Lance-Corporal Gray.
*Q.* Mr. Abraham; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1,* 1299.
Swords and Sword-Bayonets, Order for.
*Q.* Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30,* 875, 876.
Waltham Abbey Wages, Decision as to.
*Qs.* Col. Lockwood; *As.* Mr. Buchanan, *Oct. 30,* 876, 877.
Woolwich Arsenal
Discharged Workmen, Provision of Employment for.
*Q.* Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 31,* 1090.
Discharges of Workmen.
Number Employed, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Fell; A. Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29,* 686.
Whitworth, J., Case of.
*Q.* Mr. Chiozza-Money; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 31,* 1089.

**Army Book of the British Empire**
Revised Edition, Proposals as to issue of.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 24,* 185, 186.

**Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hon. H. O.** [Croydon]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 87–91.

**Ashanti**
Order in Council, 1906, Presented, *Oct. 30,* 815, 857.

**Ashbourne, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 25,* 370–381, 386; *Oct. 29,* 603; *Oct. 30,* 846; *Oct. 31,* 1032, 1035, 1044, 1053, 1054, 1059, 1060, 1064; *Nov. 1,* 1286.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, 2R., *Oct. 23,* 24.

**Ashburnham, Earl**
Took the Oath, *Oct. 25,* 293.

**Ashley, Mr. W. W.** [Lancashire, N., Blackpool]
Abyssinia
Emperor Menelik's Consent to Agreement between Great Britain, France and Italy, *Nov. 1,* 1328.
Harrar, Governor appointed to, *Oct* 30, 879.

**Ashley, Mr. W. W.**—*cont.*
  Aland Islands, Russian Occupation of, *Oct. 25*, 411.
  Blackpool Post Office Staff, Revision of, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1119.
  Fowler, Rex *v.*—Procedure in Trial, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1340.
  Greenwich Observatory—Result of Investigation as to Effect of London County Council Power Station, *Oct. 31*, 1098.
  Maesteg—Allegations as to Throwing of Two Non-unionists into a River, *Oct. 30*, 891.
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 85, 120, 140.
  Morocco—Measures for Protection of British Subjects at Arzila, *Oct. 30*, 881.
  Newfoundland—*modus vivendi* with United States.
    Correspondence, proposals as to Tabling, *Oct. 30*, 878.
    Colonial Government Adherence, etc., *Oct. 25*, 408; *Oct. 30*, 877.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 267; *Oct. 25*, 433, 434; *Oct. 26*, 562; *Oct. 31*, 1196.
  Postal Officials, Regulations against Betting by, *Oct. 25*, 421.
  Preston Post Office—Result of Revision, *Oct. 31*, 1119.
  Transvaal, Chinese Labour—Number Employed, *Oct. 30*, 878.
  Unemployed Grant, proposals as to Allocation of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.

**Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.**—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Fife, E.]
  Bala Income Tax Assessor, Arrangement of Duties of, *Oct. 30*, 861.
  Cobham—Compensation Paid for "Crown" Public-house, *Oct. 25*, 398.
  Coinage and Currency
    Gold Reserve—Proposals for Restricting Export of Gold, etc., *Oct. 30*, 871.
    Nickel Coinage, Adoption of, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 693.
  Estate Duty
    Office Staff, Reason for Increase in, *Oct. 25*, 412.
    Payment in 1898 in Respect of Estate Floated in 1900—Certificate Granted, etc., *Oct. 29*, 670.
    Revenue—Cost of Collection in England Compared with Scotland and Ireland, *Oct. 29*, 694.
  Income Tax
    District Commissioners, Delegation of Duties of, *Oct. 30*, 862.
    Returns, *status* of Officials Dealing with, *Nov. 1*, 1305.

**Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.**—*cont.*
  Income Tax Acts, Re-consideration of, proposed, *Oct. 25*, 412.
  Manchester Stamping Office, Cost of, etc., *Nov. 2*, 1445.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 208–210, 243–245, 258, 260, 261; *Oct. 25*, 458, 459, 505; *Oct. 26*, 528, 544, 551, 552, 554; *Oct. 29*, 737, 738, 739, 758; *Oct. 30*, 959, 960, 961, 967; *Oct. 31*, 1188, 1201, 1203, 1206, 1209, 1210.
  Selby Abbey, Destruction of—Government Assistance towards Rebuilding, proposed, *Oct. 26*, 520.
  Trade Disputes Bill, *con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1364, 1367–1369.

**Athenry**
  Cattle-maiming Cases — Measures taken to trace Offenders, etc.
    *Qs.* Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. O'Malley, Mr. Barrie; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1127, 1128.
  O'Halloran, Constable, Attack on—Reason for Discharge of Arrested Persons, etc.
    *Qs.* Colonel McCalmont, Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1132.
  Post Office, Leave Regulations in.
    *Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 26*, 520.

**Atherley-Jones, Mr. L.** [Durham, N.W.]
  Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1429; *Nov. 2*, 1472–1474.

**Attorney-General**
  *Sir J. Lawson Walton.*

**Attorney-General for Ireland**
  *Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.*

**Australia**
  Imperial Preference Bill, Foreign Treaties affected by.
    *Q.* Mr. F. E. Smith; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31*, 1091, 1092.

**Australasia**
  Irish Home Rule Resolutions, *see* Ireland—Home Rule.

**Austria-Hungary**
  Eighty Club — Visit of Deputation to certain Hungarian Political Organisations.
    *Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 25*, 411.
  Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Avebury, Lord**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill
    Rates and Taxes, Additional Expenditure to be thrown on —Granting Return as to, *Oct. 23*, 31, 32.

**Baghdad Railway**
Progress made with Project.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Nov.* 1, 1326.

**Bahamas**
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Bahr-el-Ghazal**
*See under* Soudan.

**Baker, Sir J.** [Portsmouth]
Naval Dockyards—Division of Additional Wages, *Oct. 29*, 684.

**Bala**
Income-tax Assessor, Arrangement of Duties of.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 30*, 861.

**Balcarres, Lord** [Lancashire, N., Chorley]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 111, 139, 145.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31*, 1195.
Swansea Voluntary Schools, Resolution of Local Authority as to, *Oct. 30*, 888.

**Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.** [London]
Business of the House, Course of, *Oct. 23*, 55; *Oct. 31*, 1134.
House of Commons Construction — Alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 58.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 62.
Newfoundland Papers, Proposals as to laying, *Oct. 23*, 55.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com. Oct. 24*, 197, 210–216, 219, 246–248, 257, 258, 260, 280, 281; *Oct. 25*, 444, 456–458, 480–482, 484; *Oct. 26*, 533–535, 541–544, 549, 572–574; *Oct. 29*, 721; 724, 725, 726, 730, 736, 776; *Oct. 30*, 900, 907, 930, 938–940, 973, 974; *Oct. 31*, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1160–1162, 1199–1201.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1354, 1397–1399, 1426–1429; *Nov. 2*, 1456, 1458, 1464, 1475–1477, 1497, 1498.

**Balfour of Burleigh, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 850; *Oct. 31*, 1067 1083; *Nov. 1*, 1231, 1256.

**Balycomane Farm**
Purchase of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 860, 861.

**Banbury, Sir F. G.** [London, City of]
India—Ganges Bridge at Godagiri, Decision as to, *Nov. 1*, 1316.

**Banbury, Sir F. G.**—*cont.*
Plural Voting Bill, *Com. Oct. 24*, 196, 198, 238–241, 265; *Oct. 25*, 435, 455, 501, 504; *Oct. 26*, 524, 535, 538; *Oct. 29*, 725, 735, 740, 751, 776, 777; *Oct. 30*, 927, 928, 966, 976, 977, 978, 1002; *Oct. 31*, 1143, 1166–1168, 1179, 1189.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1356–1358, 1409–1412; *Nov. 2*, 1459–1461, 1466, 1467, 1509–1511.

**Barbados**
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Baring, Mr. G.** [Isle of Wight]
Gloucester Prison Outbreak, Cause of, *Oct. 31*, 1107.
Sewer Commissioners, Boards of—Abolition of System proposed, *Oct. 29*, 698.

**Barker, Mr. J.** [Penryn and Falmouth]
Merchant Shipping—Decision as to Reducing Freeboard, *Oct. 31*, 1095.

**Barnard, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. Oct. 25*, 344–352; *Oct. 31*, 1032, 1049–1052, 1055–1057, 1061, 1063.

**Barrie, Mr. H. T.** [Londonderry, N.]
Athenry Cattle-maiming Cases, *Oct. 31*, 1128.
Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 796.
Opium Traffic, Chinese, Proposals for Restricting, *Oct. 29*, 688.

**Bath Electric Tramways** (Light Railways Extension).
Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1295.

**Bath and Lansdown Light Railway**
Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1295.

**Beach, Mr. M. Hicks** [Gloucester, Tewkesbury]
Fowler, Rex *v.*—Procedure in Trial of, *Nov. 1*, 1340.
Newfoundland Naval Reserve Cruise, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1312.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com. Oct. 29*, 734.
Rifle Clubs—Proposals as to War Office Assistance, *Oct. 30*, 874.
Taxation, Local—Legislative Proposals for Reform, *Oct. 30*, 899.

**Beauchamp, Earl**
Indian Legislative Council, Representative Element in, Proposals as to Extension, *Oct. 23*, 30.

**Beauchamp, Mr. H. W.** [Suffolk, Lowestoft]
Naval Manœuvres, Merchant Vessels taking part in *Nov. 1*, 1311.

**Belfast**
Military Canteen—System for Supply of Beer and Groceries, etc.
*Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30*, 872.

**Belgium**
Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6.

**Belhaven and Stenton, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 1*, 1269.

**Bell, Mr. R.** [Derby]
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1430, 1431.

**Bellairs, Mr. C.** [Lynn Regis]
Anglo-Japanese Treaty, Provisions of, *Oct. 30*, 864.
Army Book of the British Empire—Proposals as to Issue of Revised Edition, *Oct. 24*, 185.
Bermuda
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Duties and Pay of, *Oct. 23*, 49.
Military Establishment, Colonial Contribution towards Cost of, proposed, *Oct. 24*, 186.
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill—Committee of Advice, Formation of, and Date of Issuing Regulations, *Oct. 26*, 517.
Navy
"Dreadnought"
Dock at Portsmouth, Time spent in, *Oct. 30*, 867.
Docks capable of Accommodating, *Oct. 23*, 52.
"Duncan," Cost of Repairs to, *Oct. 30*, 873.
Obsolete Vessels, Names, etc., of, *Oct. 24*, 179.
Officers' Debts, Liability of Half and Retired Pay for—Interpretation of Order in Council, *Oct. 25*, 401.
"Philomel," Expenditure on—Date of placing on Ineffective List, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1297.
Shipbuilding
Date of Laying-down Ship at Pembroke, *Oct. 30*, 874.
Designs, Decision as to Facilitating Criticism on, *Nov. 1*, 1311.
Hulls of "Suffolk" and "Essex," Cost of, *Oct. 31*, 1086.
Signal Lieutenants, Pay of, *Oct. 31*, 1095.

**Belloc, Mr. H. V. P. R.** [Salford, S.]
London Restaurants—Regulations as to Extension of Closing Time, *Oct. 31*, 1112, 1113.

**Belper, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 352–357; *Oct. 30*, 832.

**Bere Alston and Calstock Light Railway (Extension of Time, etc.), Order**
Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222, 1294.

**Bermuda**
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Duties and Pay of.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct 23*, 49.
Military Establishment, Colonial Contribution towards Cost of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 24*, 186.

**Betting, Street**
Convictions in certain Towns in 1903, 1904, and 1905—Return Ordered, *Nov. 1*, 1296.

**Bexhill**
War Office Land—Proposal for Erection of Sea Wall.
*Q.* Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1314.

**Bills**
Private
London County Council Expenses in promoting and opposing—Return Ordered, *Oct. 25*, 392.

**Birmingham**
School of Art—Outside Work undertaken by Teacher of Modelling.
*Qs.* Mr. O'Grady; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 30*, 886–888.

**Birmingham, Bishop of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 1*, 1278, 1288, 1290.

**Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.**—*President, Board of Education* [Bristol, N.]
Age for commencing—Comparison with Foreign Countries, *Oct. 29*, 703, 704.
Birmingham School of Art—Outside Work undertaken by Teacher of Modelling, *Oct. 30*, 887, 888.
Corporal Punishment and keeping of Punishment Book, Regulations as to, *Oct. 31*, 1117.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, Commissioners, Annual Cost of, *Oct. 30*, 869.
Lyningham-with-Filgrave School, Decision as to, *Oct. 25*, 397.
Military Instruction in Elementary Schools—Proposals as to sanctioning Rifle Shooting, etc., *Oct. 25*, 425–427; *Oct. 29*, 681, 705–707; *Oct. 30*, 888.
Applications received during late Administration, *Oct. 30*, 888.

[*cont.*

**Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.**—*cont.*
Religious Instruction—West Riding Appeal Case, Reason for Appeal to House of Lords in, *Oct. 25*, 424.
South Kensington Technological Institute, Proposal as to, *Oct. 31*, 1116.
Swansea Voluntary Schools, Resolution of Local Authority as to, *Oct. 30*, 889.
Wakefield Schools, Fees charges at—Case of A. Whiteley, *Nov. 1*, 1337.

**Births**
Scotland—Report (1904) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Blackler, Rex v.**
Report of Proceedings, etc.
*Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Oct. 29*, 711, 712.

**Blacklion**
Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1303, 1304.

**Blackpool**
Post Office Staff, Proposals as to revision of.
*Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 31*, 1119.

**Boland, Mr. J. P.** [Kerry, S.]
Irish Language, Teaching in Schools—Gaelic League Scheme, Decision as to, *Oct. 30*, 1127.
Kells, Erection of Pier at, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 894.
Kilgarvan Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 898.
Mauritius Garrison, Strength of—Military Expenditure during last five years, etc., *Oct. 29*, 685.
Trade Statistics, Irish, Progress made with collecting, *Oct. 30*, 897.

**Bolton**
Poaching Case—Sentences on Prisoners etc.
*Qs.* Mr. W. T. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 883, 884.

**Borneo**
Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Bottomley, Mr. H. W.** [Hackney, S.]
Diplomatic and Consular Service, Aliens and Levantines in, *Oct. 30*, 880.
Guernsey, Evasion of Stamp Duty by Joint Stock Companies registering in, *Oct. 30*, 886.
Watt, H., Case of—Decision as to Sentence, *Oct. 23*, 53; *Oct. 30*, 884.

**Boulton, Mr. A. C. F.** [Hunts., Ramsey]
De Ramsey, Lord, Estates of—Allotment holders served with Notices to Quit, etc., *Oct. 29*, 698.

**Bowerman, Mr. C. W.** [Deptford]
Railways—Inquiry into Incidence of District Railway Fares, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1332.

**Bowles, Mr. G. S.** [Lambeth, Norwood]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 76.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1349–1353, 1359; *Nov. 2*, 1453, 1468, 1512.

**Boyle, Sir E.** [Taunton]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 161, 162.

**Brace, Mr. W.** [Glamorgan, S.]
Magistrates, Procedure for Appointment of, *Oct. 25*, 430.

**Branch, Mr. J.** [Middlesex, Enfield]
Enfield Factory, Wages of Labourers in, *Oct. 29*, 686.

**Brazil**
Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Bridport, Viscount**
Sat first in Parliament after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 25*, 293.

**Bridgeman, Mr. W. C.** [Shropshire, Oswestry]
Africa, South—Committee of Inquiry into Self-Government Proposals, Date of Tabling Report of, *Oct. 29*, 718.
Burwell Estate, Conditions of Letting, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1123.
Fowler, Rex *v.*—Procedure in Trial, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1339.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 276; *Oct. 25*, 488; *Oct. 26*, 526.
Transvaal Elections, Date fixed for, *Oct. 29*, 690.

**Brigg, Mr. J.** [Yorks., W.R., Keighley]
Keighley Post Office—Condition of Service, *Nov. 1*, 1304.

**Bristol**
Buck, C., Inquest on Body of.
*Q.* Mr. W. Hope; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 678.

**Brodie, Mr. H. C.** [Surrey, Reigate]
London, Defence of—Expenditure, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1308.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 65.
Pimlico Clothing Factory—Payment for Piecework, *Oct. 29*, 673

**Brunner, Sir J. T.** [Cheshire, Northwich]
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 110.

**Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.**—*Chief Secretary for Ireland* [Aberdeen, S.]
- Adair Estate—Reinstatement Claim of T. Flanagan, *Oct. 30,* 898.
- Aghanville Ranch, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1,* 1308, 1344.
- Agriculture Department, Veterinary Branch Staff, Duties and Pay of, *Oct. 26,* 514.
- Arigna, Railway Extension to, proposed, *Oct. 30,* 859.
- Athenry
  - Cattle-maiming Cases—Measures taken to trace Offenders, etc., *Oct. 31,* 1127, 1128.
  - O'Halloran, Constable, Attack on—Reason for Discharge of Arrested Persons, *Oct. 31,* 1132.
- Ballycomane Farm, Purchase of, proposed, *Oct 30,* 861.
- Burke Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1.* 1346.
- Caldbeck Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1,* 1307.
- Castlewellan and Newcastle Railway—Rates and Fares, *Oct. 23,* 52.
- Claremorris Union Clerk, Conditions of Appointment of, *Oct. 31,* 1125, 1126.
- Clifden, Assault on Rev. M. Harpur at—Number of Arrests, etc., *Nov. 1,* 1346.
- Constabulary Fund, Information as to, *Oct. 31,* 1090.
- Corry, No. 2 Schools, Brother and Sister as Manager and Teacher of, *Oct. 30,* 859.
- Deputy-lieutenants, Number of, *Oct. 23,* 51.
- Down County Deputy Lieutenants, Information as to, *Oct. 30,* 895.
- Dublin—Bank of Ireland Premises, Proposals as to Acquisition of, *Oct. 26,* 519.
- Education
  - Inspectors—Appointment System, *Oct. 25,* 392.
  - National School Teachers
    - Assistant—Attendance Required for Appointment, *Nov. 2,* 1446, 1447.
    - Promotion System, *Oct. 31,* 1091.
      - Conditions of Recommending, *Nov. 2,* 1450.
  - Primary System, Proposals for Improving, *Oct. 30,* 860; *Oct. 31,* 1131.
  - School Building Grants, Decision as to, *Oct. 31,* 1128, 1129.

**Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.**—*cont.*
- Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 23,* 54; *Oct. 29,* 715, 717, 786, 800, 803, 810, 811.
- Falchorrib Marine Works, Decision as to, *Oct. 31,* 1091.
- Freemount Schools—Decision as to Repairs, etc., *Nov. 1,* 1306.
- Galway
  - Constabulary Force, Strength of, *Nov. 2,* 1448, 1449.
  - Malicious Injury Cases—Claims for Compensation, *Oct. 31,* 1131.
- Innishlyre Marine Works, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29,* 684.
- Irish Language, Teaching in Schools—Gaelic League Scheme, Decision as to, *Oct. 31,* 1127.
- Kells, Erection of Pier at, proposed, *Oct. 30,* 894.
- Land Commission, Fair Rent Appeals—Cases awaiting Hearing, *Oct. 30,* 896.
- Land Purchase
  - Advances
    - Delay, Allegations as to, *Oct. 25,* 400.
    - Number applied for, etc., *Oct. 25,* 400.
  - Report of Estates Commissioners—Opportunity for Parliamentary Discussion, *Oct. 25,* 399.
- Limerick—Fishery Board Accounts, System of Auditing, *Nov. 1,* 1345.
- Lisnagry—Case of T. Ryan, *Oct. 30,* 897; *Oct. 31,* 1133.
- Loughrea—District Council, Claims against for Malicious Injury, *Oct. 31,* 1128.
- MacDonnell, Sir A.
  - Position of—Publication of Correspondence, etc., proposed, *Oct. 29,* 672.
  - Speech Foreshadowing Home Rule—Cabinet Sanction, etc., *Oct. 31,* 1125.
- Mitchelstown Nationalist Demonstration—Use of Flag taken by Police in 1887, *Oct. 30,* 858.
- Moyode Untenanted Land, Proposals for Purchase of, *Nov. 1,* 1346.
- Munster-Connaught Exhibition—Alleged Exclusion of British Flag, *Oct. 31,* 1126.
- Poor Law Reform Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 30,* 861.
- Potato Crops, Fears as to Failure of, and Preparations to avert Distress, *Oct. 25,* 429.
- Railway Rates on Agricultural Implements, *Nov. 2,* 1450.

[*cont.*

**Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.**—*cont.*
Royal University—Regulations as to Issue of Tickets Admitting to Conferring of Degrees, *Oct. 30*, 896.
Strabane—Rural District Clerk, Scope of Inquiry with Regard to, *Oct. 31*, 1129.
Tobacco Cultivation—Proposals for Extending Area, *Nov. 1*, 1343, 1344.
Trade Statistics, Progress made with Collecting, *Oct. 30*, 895.

**Buchanan, Mr. T. R.**—*Financial Secretary, War Office* [Perthshire, E.]
Coldstream Guards, Third Battalion—Allowance for Travelling Expenses, *Oct. 30*, 877.
Waltham Abbey Wages, Decision as to, *Oct. 30*, 877.
War Office Contracts—Inspection Depôt in Dublin, Progress made with, *Oct. 26*, 520.

**Bull, Sir W. J.** [Hammersmith]
Canned Foodstuffs, American—Report of British Consul at Chicago, *Oct. 31*, 1102.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 261, 276; *Oct. 25*, 486; *Oct. 29*, 733, 734, 764, 765; *Oct. 30*, 909, 914, 978, 979.

**Burghclere, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 598; *Oct. 31*, 1024, 1062.

**Burke Estate**
Sale Proposals for—Decision as to Grallagh and Traskernagh.
*Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1345, 1346.

**Burma**
Police Grievances, Proposals as to Removal of.
*Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 671.

**Burns, Rt. Hon. J.**—*President of the Local Government Board* [Battersea]
Camberwell New Road—Alleged Infringement of Building Acts by Erection of Garage, *Oct. 29*, 677.
De Ramsay, Lord, Estates of—Allotment Holders served with Notice to Quit, etc., *Oct. 29*, 700.
Hutton—Expenditure on Poplar Poor Law Schools, *Oct. 29*, 701.
Islington Board of Guardians, Interest on Bank Balance of, *Oct. 29*, 702.
Meat Inspectors, Qualifications required of, *Oct. 24*, 184.
Motors
  Accidents—Legislative Proposals for Public Safety, *Oct. 25*, 423.
  Excessive Speed, Penalty for, *Oct. 31*, 1113, 1114.

**Burns, Rt. Hon. J.**—*cont.*
Motors—*cont.*
  Speed Reduction, Local Authorities Applying for, *Oct. 25*, 423.
Paupers, Register of—Number of Boards Refusing to keep, *Oct. 29*, 700.
Religious Instruction in Non-provided Schools, Payment for—Effect of Appeal against West Riding Judgment, *Oct. 29*, 701.
Saxmundham Water Scheme—Result of Inquiry, *Oct. 29*, 677.
Sewers, Boards of Commissioners for—Abolition of System proposed, *Oct. 29*, 698.
Smithfield Market Meat Inspection System, *Oct. 25*, 422.
Southampton Union Area, Proposal for Altering, *Oct. 31*, 1114.
Stepney Poor Law Guardians, Alleged Refusal of Out-relief by, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1116.
Tuberculosis Bovine Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 24*, 184.
Unemployed
  Distress Committees—Circular No. 1, Names of Committees sent to, *Oct. 29*, 677.
  Grant, Proposals as to Allocation of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.
Vaccination Prosecutions—Stay of further Proceedings pending Legislation, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1096.
Whitechapel Poor Law Guardians, Attitude of, towards Outdoor Relief, *Oct. 31*, 1115.

**Burwell Estate**
Conditions of Letting, Number of Holdings, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks, Mr. Hay, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Winfrey, Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *Oct. 31*, 1123, 1124.
*Q.* Viscount Turnour; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Nov. 1*, 1303.
Labourers Dispossessed, Proposals for Rehousing, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks, Lord Turnour, Mr. Chiozza-Money; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *Oct. 29*, 709, 710.

**Bushey**
School — Rifle Shooting Instruction at, *see* Military Training in Schools.

**Business of the House**
Bills, *see that title.*
Course of
*Qs.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 23*, 55; *Oct. 31*, 1134; Sir A. Acland-Hood, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Nov. 2*, 1451; Mr. G. Whiteley, 1519.

**Busra**

- Lynch, Messrs., Murder of Agents of—Sentences Inflicted on Persons Implicated, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 862.

**Butcher, Mr. S. H.** [Cambridge University]

- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 206.
- South Kensington Technological Institute, Proposals as to, *Oct. 31*, 1116.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 1*, 1393–1395.

**Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.**—*Postmaster-General* [Tower Hamlets, Poplar]

- Athenry Post Office—Leave Regulations in, *Oct. 26*, 520.
- Betting by Officials, Regulations against, *Oct. 25*, 421.
- Blacklion Postal Facilities, Improvement, etc., proposed *Nov. 1*, 1304.
- Blackpool Post Office Staff, Revision of, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1119.
- Canada and Rates on Newspapers, etc., to, *Oct. 30*, 890.
- Clocks, Regulations as to Provision of, *Oct. 30*, 890.
- Grievances of Employees, Inquiry into—Inclusion of Abstractors (Assistant Class) proposed, *Oct. 23*, 50.
- Halifax
    - Telegraphists, Duties of, *Oct. 29*, 669.
    - Telephone Operators, Alleged Overcrowding of, *Oct. 29*, 669.
- India, Telegraph Rates to, *Nov. 1*, 1304.
- Keighly Post Office—Conditions of Service, *Nov. 1*, 1304.
- Kilgarvan Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed *Oct. 30*, 899.
- Local Guides, Publication of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 891.
- Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Service of, *Oct. 23*, 53.
- Margate — Late Fee Posting, Arrangements for, *Oct. 29*, 708.
- Medical Officers—Age Limit for Tenure of Office, *Nov.*, *1*, 1298.
- Postmaster, Sub-, Decision as to Annual Holiday, *Oct. 31*, 1119.
- Postmen, Cyclist, in London, Duties of, *Oct. 31*, 1086.
- Preston Post Office—Result of Revision, *Oct. 31*, 1119.
- Private Boxes—Effect of Increased Charges, *Nov. 1*, 1336.
- Queenstown Mail Trains to Dublin—Regulations as to Carrying Passengers, *Nov. 1*, 1298.
- Redditch Medical Officer, Reason for Retirement of, *Nov. 1*, 1298.

**Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.**—*cont.*

- Savings Bank Comptroller, Date of Retirement of, *Oct. 24*, 183.
- Stoke-on-Trent Post Office Accommodation, *Oct. 25*, 421; *Oct. 31*, 1120.
- Swansea Post Office, Inspection by House of Commons Committee—Refusal of Permission to Members of Postal Telegraph Clerks Association to Accompany Committee, *Oct. 29*, 708.
- Telegraph Service
    - Betting by Telegram, Computation of Loss of Revenue which might ensue by Prohibition of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.
    - Delays in Certain Offices, Cause of, *Oct. 31*, 1085.
    - Irish Tidal Ports, Hours of Business at, *Oct. 29*, 718.
    - Redirecting Telegrams, Charge for, *Nov. 1*, 1336.
- Telephone Service—Betting by Telephone, Proposals for Preventing, *Nov. 1*, 1336.
- West Indies Mail Service, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 708.
- Wireless Telegraphy Conference at Berlin—Opportunity for Discussing Report, *Oct. 25*, 421.

**Byles, Mr. W. P.** [Salford, N.]

- Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans Association, War Office Assistance to, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1300.
- Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 795.
- Government Department Messengerships, Persons Appointed to, *Oct. 31*, 1133.
- Lagos—Reply to Memorial from Hausa Population, *Oct. 26*, 407.
- Natal Corporations Consolidation Bill, Effect of, on Position of British Indians, *Nov. 1*, 1320.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 26*, 579.
- Russian Duma—Effect of projected British Deputation, etc., *Oct. 25*, 410.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Lobby—Sentence on Offenders, *Oct. 31*, 1109.

**Cairns, Mr. T.** [Newcastle-on-Tyne]

- Coal Export—Continuance of Records, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1302.
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 65, 75.

**Caldbeck Estate**

- Sale Proposals for.
    - *Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1307.

**Camberwell New Road.**

- Garage Erection—Alleged Infringement of Building Acts, etc.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 676, 677.

**Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir. H.**—*First Lord of the Treasury* [Stirling Burghs]
- Africa, South—Committee of Inquiry into Self-government Proposals, Date of Tabling Report of, *Oct. 29*, 719.
- Business of the House, Course of, *Oct. 23*, 55; *Oct. 31*, 1134; *Nov. 2*, 1451.
- Convocation, Purpose of Meeting of, etc., *Oct. 23*, 55.
- Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, Proposals as to, *Oct. 30*, 889.
- Feeble-minded. Care and Control of—Date of Presenting Royal Commission Report, *Nov. 1*, 1348.
- Government Department Messengerships, Persons Appointed to, *Oct. 31*, 1133, 1134.
- House of Commons Construction, Alterations in—Opportunity for Discussion, *Oct. 25*, 431, 432.
- Magistrates
  - Appointment of
    - Lords-Lieutenant, Duties of, *Oct. 25*, 430.
    - Procedure for, *Oct. 25*, 430.
  - County—Alteration in Procedure as to Appointment, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1347.
  - Political Opinions of—Effect on Administration of Justice, *Oct. 23*, 54.
- Minister of Commerce, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1348.
- "Montagu," H.M.S., Replacing of—Opportunity for discussing Question, *Oct. 25*, 403.
- Newfoundland Papers, Proposals as to laying, *Oct. 23*, 55.
- Parliamentary Procedure—Interval for Dinner Hour, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 899.
- Public Trustee Bill, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 431.
- Taxation, Local—Legislative Proposals for Reform, *Oct. 30*, 899.
- Tobacco Cultivation in Ireland—Proposals for Extending Area, *Nov. 1*, 1344.
- Wireless Telegraphy International Conference—Powers of British Delegates, *Oct. 29*, 719.
- Women's Suffrage—Proposals as to Legislation, etc., *Oct. 30*, 873.

**Camperdown, Earl of**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 596, 597, 605; *Oct. 30*, 829–831, 839, 847, 850; *Oct. 31*, 1040, 1042, 1045; *Nov. 1*, 1284.
  - Cost of, Question of Levy on the Local Rates, *Oct. 29*, 586.

**Canada.**
- Alaskan Boundary—Convention between United Kingdom and United States, Presented, *Oct. 30*, 814, 858.
- Japan, Commercial Treaty with, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 36.
- Postal Rates on British Magazines, etc., Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. E. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 30*, 890.
- Scottish Crofters and Cottars, Colonisation of—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 42.
- West Indies, Steamship Service to—Agreements Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 41.

**Canals and Waterways**
- Royal Commission, Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 38.

**Canned Foodstuffs**
- American
  - Hobbs, Lt.-Col., Report of.
    - *Q.* Mr. H. Heaton; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1311.
  - Report by British Consul at Chicago.
    - *Qs.* Sir W. Bull; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 31*, 1102.

**Canterbury, Archbishop of**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 312–325; *Oct. 29*, 595, 615–618; *Oct. 30*, 816–819, 820, 824, 825, 826–828, 845, 849; *Oct. 31*, 1016, 1024, 1036, 1039, 1049, 1063, 1066; *Nov. 1*, 1257.

**Carlile, Mr. E. H.** [Hertfordshire, St. Albans]
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 109.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 755, 777; *Oct. 30*, 901–903.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1354; *Nov. 2*, 1463.

**Carrington, Earl**—*President of the Board of Agriculture*
- Horses
  - Glanders, Measures taken to eradicate, *Oct. 23*, 28, 29.
  - Importation of, into Ireland—Agricultural Department Order, *Oct. 23*, 28, 29.

**Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H.** [Dublin University]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 205, 251–252, 254, 259, 282; *Oct. 25*, 496–498, 505–508; *Oct. 26*, 521, 522, 523, 525, 528, 529, 551, 552, 559, 565, 567, 568, 580, 581; *Oct. 29*, 757, 758, 763, 764, 765; *Oct. 30*, 917, 924, 960, 962, 969, 998, 1002; *Oct. 31*, 1186, 1188, 1203, 1204, 1211, 1213–1215.

[*cont.*

**Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H.**—*cont.*

Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege, *Oct. 24*, 188.

Trades Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1402–1403, 1422–1425, 1437.

**Castlereagh, Lord** [Maidstone]

Inniskilling Dragoons, Sixth—Reason for selecting Yeomanry Officers for Attachment, *Oct. 30*, 875.

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 138, 147.

Plural Voting Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 24*, 242; *Oct. 25*, 433; *Oct. 26*, 523; *Oct. 29*, 720, 721; *Oct. 30*, 907, 921–923, 926, 929.

Trades Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1391–1393; *Nov. 2*, 1458, 1483, 1484.

**Castlewellan and Newcastle Railway**

Rates and Fares charged on.
*Q.* Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 23*, 52.

**Cave, Mr. G.** [Surrey, Kingston]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 201; *Oct. 25*, 449–452; *Oct. 29*, 750; *Oct. 31*, 1188, 1205, 1220; *Oct. 24*, 267, 268; *Oct. 26*, 530.

**Cecil, Lord R** [Marylebone, E.]

Fowler, Rex *v.*—Procedure in Trial, etc., *Oct. 29*, 712–714; *Nov. 1*, 1338, 1341.

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 108, 111, 112, 113, 122.

Newfoundland—*Modus vivendi* with United States, Date of Tabling Papers as to, *Oct. 29*, 691, ; *Oct. 30*, 878.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 198; 268–270, 287–290; *Oct. 25*, 503, 507, *Oct. 26*, 530, 561, 568, 569, 574; *Oct. 29*, 771; *Oct. 30*, 911, 912, 930, 937, 961, 969, 1000; *Oct. 31*, 1197.

Regent's Park Fence—Reason for substituting Iron Railing, *Oct. 25*, 427.

Swansea Voluntary Schools, Resolution of Local Authority as to, *Oct. 30*, 889.

Trades Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1355, 1356, 1438; *Nov. 2*, 1457, 1464–1466, 1470–1472, 1501.

Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Lobby—Sentence on Offenders, *Oct. 31*, 1109.

**Cecil, Mr. E.** [Aston Manor]

Canada—Decision as to reduction in Postage on Newspapers, etc., *Oct. 30*, 890.

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 83–85, 114, 151.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 436.

**Census of Production Bill**

Provisions of—Proposals as to taking.
*Q.* Mr. Liddell; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Oct. 31*, 1121.

**Ceylon**

Irrigation Works—Correspondence Presented, *Oct. 23*, 18.

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

Divisions—Doors not Locked during, Loss of Time due to, *Oct. 24*, 287.

Interruptions to Debate, *Oct. 24*, 205.

Plural Voting Bill.

  Alterations to Amendments, Necessity for giving Notice of, *Oct. 29*, 772.

  Amendment withdrawn, Members shut out from taking part in Debate, *Oct. 29*, 748, 749.

  Amendments in Order, *Oct. 29*, 734.

  Amendments out of Order, *Oct. 29*, 772; *Oct. 30*, 907, 959, 985; *Oct. 31*, 1185, 1209, 1217.

  Amendments overlapping one another, Procedure as to, *Oct. 29*, 722, 724; *Oct. 30*, 977.

  Amendments sprung upon the Committee without Notice, Objections to, *Oct. 26*, 551.

  Arguing against something which had already been agreed to, was out of Order, *Oct. 26*, 576, 577, 578; *Oct. 30*, 993, 994; *Oct. 31*, 1218.

  Discussion of an Amendment which was not in Order could not be allowed, *Oct. 26*, 570, 579, 580.

  Division—Members' Name not recorded by Tellers—Question of adding to the List, *Oct. 25*, 502.

  Matter outside of Subject under Discussion, Introduction of, *Oct. 25*, 433; *Oct. 26*, 526, 541; *Oct. 29*, 737; *Oct. 30*, 912, 982, 995, 998, 1000, 1004; *Oct. 31*, 1218.

  Motion to Report Progress refused, *Oct. 24*, 262.

  Second Reading Speech on Committee Stage was out of Order, *Oct. 24*, 292.

  Statement as to Speech not being in support of Amendment, not out of Order, *Oct. 24*, 275.

  Women, Votes of, Relevancy of the Subject, 288, 289, 290.

Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege *Oct. 24*, 188.

**Chairman, House of Lords**

Education (England and Wales) Bill

  Adjournment of Consideration of Clause 2—Withdrawal of Amendments affecting, *Oct. 30*, 846.

  Question before the Committee was the insertion of Words which had already been inserted, *Oct. 31*, 1024.

**Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A.** [Worcestershire, E.]

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con*, *Oct. 23*, 94.

"Montagu," Proposals as to replacing, *Oct. 25*, 402, 403.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 196, 242–243, 277, 278; *Oct. 25*, 460, 469, 470, 486, 487–490; *Oct 26*, 527, 554, 557, 559, 562; *Oct. 29*, 731, 739, 745, 748, 749, 754, 773; *Oct. 30*, 909, 913, 959, 961, 970–972, 975; *Oct. 31*, 1162, 1168, 1180, 1201, 1215–1217.

Redditch Post Office Medical Officer, Reason for Retirement of, *Nov. 1*, 1298.

**Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**
*Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.*

**Chancellor of the Exchequer**
*Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith*

**Cheetham, Mr. J. F.** [Stalybridge]
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1459.

**Chief Secretary for Ireland**
*Rt. Hon. J. Bryce*

**Children**
Juvenile Offenders, *see that title.*

**Chile**

Money Order Agreement with United Kingdom, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 36.

Trade Report (1905), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**China**

Amoy—Reparation made in Case of Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie.
  *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 863.

Canton Delta, Piracy in—Proposals for Protection of Commerce, etc.
  *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Nov. 1*, 1327.

Customs, Imperial Maritime

  Administration, Conditions of.
    *Q.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 25*, 411.

    Hart, Sir R., Position of, under New Decree.
      *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 26*, 516.
      *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Nov. 1*, 1327.

  Correspondence Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 36.

Opium Trade, *see that title.*

Shanghai-Nanking and Suchau-Hongchau-Ningpo Railway, Progress made with.
  *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 863.

Trade Reports Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 5; *Oct. 29*, 585.

**Chinde**
Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6.

**Chiozza-Money, Mr. L. G.** [Paddington, N.]

Burwell Estate—Labourers dispossessed, etc., *Oct. 29*, 710.

National Gallery—Conditions of Keeping Photograph Stalls in outer Hall, *Oct. 29*, 711.

Printing Department, Formation of, by the Government, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 892, 893.

Railways—Signalmen, Duties of, *Oct. 31*, 1120, 1121.

Trade Monopolies and Combinations, Proposals for dealing with, *Oct. 29*, 702; *Nov. 1*, 1332, 1333.

War Office Contracts for Munitions of War, Allocation of, *Oct. 31*, 1089.

Woolwich Arsenal Discharges, Cause for—Case of J. Whitworth, *Oct. 31*, 1089.

**Churchill, Mr. W. L. S**—*Under-Secretary for the Colonies* [Manchester, N.W.]

Africa, Central

  British Protectorate

    Chiromo Game Preserve, Decision as to Area of, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1319.

    Christian Schools and Churches in Native Villages, Regulation as to Erection of, *Nov. 1*, 1319.

  Sleeping Sickness, Proposals for Study of, *Oct. 31*, 1099.

Africa, East, Portuguese Territory—Native Labour Recruitment Facilities afforded to Robinson Group of Mines, *Oct. 25*, 393.

Africa, South—Statement as to Imperial Control over Swazis made by Lord Selborne, *Oct. 29*, 674.

Africa, West

  Administration of British Colonies—Formation of Council, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1326.

  British West Africa Produce Company, Ltd., Prospectus of—Name of Chairman, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1322, 1323.

Australian Imperial Preference Bill, Foreign Treaties affected by, *Oct. 31*, 1092.

Bermuda—Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Duties and Pay of, *Oct. 23*, 49.

Coolie Labour Return, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 29*, 673; *Nov. 1*, 1323.

Lagos—Hausa Population Memorial, Reply to *Oct. 25*, 408.

Natal Corporation Consolidation Bill, Effect of, on Position of British Indians, *Oct. 25*, 409; *Oct. 26*, 517; *Nov. 1*, 1320.

New Hebrides Convention—Concurrence of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1099, 1100.

**Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.**—*cont.*
- Newfoundland—*Modus vivendi* with United States
  - Measures taken to Acquaint Colonial Government with Terms of, *Oct. 25*, 408, 409 ; *Oct. 29*, 690, 691.
  - Precedent for Course adopted, etc., *Oct. 30*, 877.
- Nigeria
  - Railway Extension, Proposals as to, *Oct. 31*, 1100.
  - South Nigeria Proclamation No. 15 (1903), Provisions of, *Nov. 1*, 1326.
- Orange River Colony
  - Constitution, Decision as to, *Oct. 25*, 393.
  - Juries—Allegations as to Racial Bias, etc., *Oct. 25*, 409.
- Straits Settlements Currency Ordinance, Provisions of, *Oct. 30*, 864.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour
    - Complaints, Procedure in making, *Oct. 31*, 1101.
    - Crimes
      - Comparison with White and Native Population, *Nov. 1*, 1325.
      - Convictions, *Oct. 24*, 183.
    - Immorality, Result of Inquiry into Charges of, *Oct. 25*, 394.
    - Number employed, *Oct. 30*, 879.
  - Elections, Date fixed for, *Oct. 29*, 690.
  - Finance Act, 1894, Reason for Non-application of, *Nov. 1*, 1324.
  - Self-government, Letters Patent, Date of Issue of, *Oct. 29*, 674.
  - Spirit Duty, Proposals as to Alteration in, *Oct. 29*, 692.
  - White Labour—Unemployed, Statistics, *Oct. 31*, 1101.
- Trinidad, Unemployment in, Allegations as to, *Nov. 1*, 1324.

**Civil Service**
- Assistant Clerks (Abstractor Class)—Pensions, Calculation of Service for.
  *Q.* Mr. T. Davies ; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 30*, 868.
- Superannuation
  - Appointments without Certificates, *Oct. 23*, 16, 45.
  - Retiring Allowance granted—Minute Presented, *Oct. 23*, 16, 45.

**Claremorris**
- Union Clerk, Conditions of Appointment of.
  *Qs.* Capt. Craig ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1125, 1126.

**Clayton West and Darton Light Railway**
- Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1295.

**Cleland, Mr. J. W.** [Glasgow, Bridgeton]
- Customs Examining Officers, Second Class, Promotion of, *Nov. 1*, 1300.

**Clifden**
- Assault on Rev. Mr. Harper—Number of Arrests made, etc.
  *Q.* Mr. Sloan ; *A.* Mr. Bryce *Nov. 1*, 1346.

**Clifford of Chudleigh, Lord**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 836, 848 ; *Oct. 31*, 1038 ; *Nov. 1*, 1281.

**Clonbrock, Lord**
- Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, 2R., *Oct. 23*, 22 ; *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 170, 175.

**Clough, Mr. W.** [Yorks., W.R., Skipton]
- Post Office Clocks, Regulations as to Provision of, *Oct. 30*, 890.
- Religious Instruction, Result of—West Riding Appeal Case, *Oct. 25*, 424.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1465.

**Clydebank and District Water and Burgh Extension Order Confirmation Bill**
- *c.* 1R.* *Oct. 26*, 513.

**Clynes, Mr J. R.** [Manchester, N.E.]
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1490.

**Coal**
- Export—Continuance of Records, proposed.
  *Q.* Mr. Cairns ; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Nov. 1*, 1302.

**Coal Mines**
- Explosions, Causes of, and Measures taken to prevent.
  *Qs.* Mr. Markham, Mr. Fenwick Mr. K. Hardie ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 696, 697.
- Naked Lights, Dangers of Use of—Mention made in Inspectors' Reports, etc.
  *Q.* Mr. Markham ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 696.

**Coast Protection**
- *See under* Defence of the Empire.

**Coastguards**
- Ireland, Stations to be closed in.
  *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale ; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 26*, 517, 518.

**Cobham**
- Crown Public-house, Compensation Paid for—Appeal proposed.
  *Q.* Sir R. Hobart ; *A.* Mr. Asquith *Oct. 25*, 398.

**Cochrane, Mr. T. H.** [Ayrshire, N.]
Workmen's Compensation Act—Effect on Insurance in Certain Trades, *Oct. 25*, 394; *Oct. 30*, 870.

**Cockermouth**
Parliamentary Election, New Member sworn, *Oct. 24*, 186.

**Coinage and Currency**
Gold Reserve—Export of Gold, Proposals for Restricting.
*Q.* Capt. Faber; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 30*, 871.
Nickel Coinage, Adoption of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. W. R. Rea; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 29*, 693.

**Collings, Rt. Hon. J.** [Birmingham, Bordesley]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 244, 245.

**Collins, Sir W. J.** [St. Pancras, W.]
East Indian Company Officials, Promotion, etc., of, *Oct. 30*, 871.

**Colonial Office**
*Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin
*Parliamentary Secretary* — Mr. W. Churchill.

**Colonies and Protectorates**
*See also* Names of Colonies, etc.
Coolie Labour—Date of Presenting Return.
*Qs.* Mr. Nield; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29*, 673; *Nov. 1*, 1323.
Import Duties Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 39.
Reports, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 40; *Oct. 26*, 513; *Oct. 29*, 585; *Oct. 30*, 814; *Oct. 31*, 1084; *Nov. 1*, 1222.

**Commerce**
*See* Trade and Commerce.
Minister of Commerce, *see that title.*

**Congested Districts Board (Ireland)**
Report (1905–6) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8. 40.

**Constabulary, Royal Irish**
*See also* Names of Places.
Fund—Audit of Accounts, Number of Pensioners, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Bryce. *Oct. 31*, 1090.

**Convocations of Canterbury and York**
Letters of Business—Return Ordered, *Oct. 24*, 178.
Meeting, Purpose of—Power conferred by Letters of Business, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Paul; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 23*, 54, 55.

**Cooper, Dr. G.** [Southwark, Bermondsey]
Corporal Punishment in Schools and keeping of Punishment Book, Regulations as to, *Oct. 31*, 1116, 1117.
Holloway Prison—Allegations as to presence of Rats, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1328, 1329.
Stepney Poor Law Guardians, Refusal of Out-Relief by, alleged, *Oct. 31*, 1116.

**Corbett, Mr. T. L.** [Down, N.]
Athenry Cattle-Maiming Cases—Measures taken to trace Offenders, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1127.
Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 791.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 483, 485, 487.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1396, 1401, *Nov. 2*, 1491, 1492.

**Corea**
Cotton Culture—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6.

**Coroners' Inquests**
Trade Union Officials, Right of, to attend as Representative of Deceased.
*Qs.* Mr. Hooper, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 882, 883.

**Corrupt Practices Act**
Fowler, Rex *v.*, *see that title.*
Political Placard, Powers of Landlord to threaten Tenant, for Exhibiting, etc.
*Q.* Mr. R. Hardie; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Oct. 29*, 714.

**Corry**
No. 2 Schools, Brother and Sister as Manager and Teacher of.
*Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 859.

**Cotton Growing**
Correspondence between India Office, Government of India and British Cotton-growing Association — Return Ordered, *Oct. 31*, 1084.

**County Courts**
Fees—Treasury Order Presented, *Oct. 23*, 17, 46.
Judges—Deputies, Payment of.
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 23*, 50.

**Courthope, Mr. G. L.** [Sussex, Rye]
Bexhill—Proposal for Erection of Sea Wall in front of War Office Land, *Nov. 1*, 1314.
Fairlight—Disposal of War Office Land, *Nov. 1*, 1314.
Fowler, Rex, *v.*—Procedure in Trial of, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1338, 1341.

[*cont.*

**Courthope, Mr. G. L.**—*cont.*

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 86.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 237, 238; *Oct. 25*, 495; *Oct. 26*, 578, 579; *Oct. 30*, 957–959, 977, 997, 1001; *Oct, 31*, 1139.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 2*, 1489.

**Courtney, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Nov. 1*, 1265, 1266.

**Cox, Mr. H.** [Preston]

Education, Age for commencing—Comparison with Foreign Countries, *Oct. 29*, 703, 904.

Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, Proposals as to, *Oct. 30*, 889.

Imperial Institute, Cost of—Donations received, etc., *Nov.* 1331.

London, Defence of—Cost of Redoubts, *Oct. 25*, 406.

Natal, Corporations Consolidation Bill, Effect of, on Position of British Indians, *Nov. 1*, 1320.

Unemployed Grant, Proposals as to Allocation of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.

**Craig, Capt. J.** [Down, E.]

Claremorris Union Clerk, Conditions of Appointment of, *Oct. 31*, 1125.

MacDonnell, Sir A.—Cabinet Sanction to Speech foreshadowing Home Rule, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1124.

Munster-Connaught Exhibition—Alleged Exclusion of British Flag, *Oct. 31*, 1126, 1127.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 25*, 445, 493; *Oct. 29*, 722, 735, 738; *Oct. 30*, 976.

**Craig, Mr. C. C.** [Antrim, S.]

Galway, Malicious Injury Cases—Claims for Compensation, *Oct. 31*, 1131.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 30*, 987, 998.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Com., Nov. 1*, 1404.

**Craik, Sir H.** [Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 205, 219–221; *Oct. 30*, 995; *Oct. 31*, 1163–1166.

Religious Instruction in Non-provided Schools, Payment for *Oct. 29*, 700.

**Cremer, Mr. W. R.** [Shoreditch, Haggerston]

Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to Teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 707.

**Crete**

Money Order Agreement with United Kingdom, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Crewe, Earl of**—*Lord President of the Council*

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 25*, 334, 381–389; *Oct. 29*, 592, 596, 597, 602, 603, 608, 618–623, 649, 654; *Oct. 30*, 819, 820, 824, 837–841, 847. 850, 851; *Oct. 31*, 1012, 1014, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1027, 1028, 1034–1036, 1038 1039, 1040, 1045–1047, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1060, 1061; *Nov. 1*, 1245–1251, 1269–1272, 1274, 1279, 1280–1282, 1285.

Cost of, Question of Levy on the Local Rates, *Oct. 29*, 587.

Rates, Additional Expenditure to be Thrown on, *Oct. 23*, 32, 33, 34, 35.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 173.

**Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association**

War Office Assistance to, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1309.

**Cromarty**

Sanitation—Tabling Dr. Dittmar's Report, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 31*, 1118.

**Crooks, Mr. W.** [Woolwich]

Whitechapel Poor Law Guardians, Attitude of, towards Outdoor Relief, *Oct. 31*, 1115.

**Curaçoa**

Sulphate Mines, Law as to Working of.
*Q.* Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 879.

**Customs and Excise**

Examining Officers, Second-class, Promotion of.
*Q.* Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Nov. 1*, 1300, 1301.

Tariffs (1897–1907) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

"Vigilant" Cruiser—Duration of Cruise of Inspection, etc.
*Qs.* Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 31*, 1122.

**Cyprus**

Report (1905–6) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 41.

**Dalziel, Mr. J. H.** [Kirkcaldy, Burghs]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 30*, 962, 1003.

South African War Stores, Inquiry into Supply of—Distinction made in Punishments Awarded, etc., *Oct. 25*, 404, 405.

**Davey, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 31*, 1029–1031.

**Davies, Mr. T.** [Fulham]
Civil Service Assistant Clerks (Abstractor) Class, Pensions of, *Oct. 30*, 868.

**De Ramsey, Lord, Estates of**
Allotment Holders served with Notices to Quit—Powers of Urban District Council to provide other Allotments, etc. *Qs.* Mr. Boulton, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Winfrey *As.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 698, 700.

**Deaths**
Scotland—Report (1904), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Defence of the Empire**
Coast Protection, Proposals as to. *Q.* Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 31*, 1122, 1123.

**Delany, Mr. W.** [Queen's County, Ossory]
Adair Estate—Reinstatement Claim of T. Flanagan, *Oct. 30*, 898.
Aghanville Ranch, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1*, 1307, 1344.
Caldbeck Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1*, 1307.
Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 794.
Queen's County—Evicted Tenants—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 682.

**Denbigh, Earl of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 31*, 1017–1019.

**Denbighshire**
Parliamentary Election for Eastern Division—New Member Sworn, *Oct. 23*, 61.

**Denman, Lord**
Horses, Importation of, into Ireland—Agriculture Department Order, *Oct. 23*, 27, 28.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, 2R., *Oct. 23*, 23; *Com., Oct. 24*, 171.

**Devonshire, Duke of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 25*, 388; *Nov. 1*, 1230–1234.

**Diachylon**
Scheduling as Poison, proposed *Qs.* Mr. S. Roberts; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 883.

**Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir. C. W.** [Gloucester, Forest of Dean].
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 253, 279; *Oct. 25*, 453–455, 459, 475–478, 479; *Oct. 29*, 730, 735, 737.

**Diplomatic and Consular Service**
Aliens and Levantines in *Qs.* Mr. Bottomley, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 880, 881.

**Docks**
Regulations for Protection of Life, Alleged Evasion of *Q.* Mr. Wilkie; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 395.

**Donoughmore, Earl of**
Public Slaughter Houses Bill, *Com., Oct. 23*, 20.

**Doughty, Sir G.** [Great Grimsby]
Education (England and Wales) Bill—Commissioners, Annual Cost of, *Oct. 30*, 869.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 102–104, 168.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 25*, 495, 496.
Women's Suffrage—Proposals as to Legislation, etc., *Oct. 30*, 873.

**Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. A.** [Kent, St. Augustine's]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 261, 263; *Oct. 31*, 1176.

**Down**
Deputy-Lieutenants, Information as to. *Qs.* Mr. MacVeagh; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 895.

**Dublin**
Bank of Ireland Premises, Proposals as to Acquisition of. *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 26*, 519.
Phœnix Park—Football and Hurling, Area Allotted to. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 29*, 683.

**Duffy, Mr. W. J.** [Galway, S.]
Burke Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Nov. 1*, 1345.
Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 788.
Moyode Untenanted Land, Proposals for Purchase of, *Nov. 1*, 1346.

**Duke of York's School**
Site, Decision as to. *Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29*, 685.

**Duncan, Mr. R.** [Lanark, Govan]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 86.
Minister of Commerce, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1348.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 1*, 1359, 1419.

**Dundee**

- District Lunatic Asylum—General Rules for Management, Presented, *Oct. 24*, 170, 178.

**Dunn, Mr. A. E.** [Cornwall, Camborne]

- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 491.

**Durham**

- Prison—Price asked for making Ships' Fenders.
  - *Q.* Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 694, 695.

**Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act**

- Small Feuars and Leaseholders, Position of
  - *Q.* Mr. Menzies; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 29*, 714, 715.

**Ecclesiastical Commissioners**

- Funds, Information as to.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Wedgwood; *As.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *Nov. 1*, 1342, 1343.

**Ecuador**

- Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4.

**Education**

- Military Instruction in Schools, *see that Title.*

**Education, Board of**

- *President*—Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.
- *Parliamentary Secretary*—Mr. T. Lough.
- Regulations as to College of Science and Museums, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 39.

**Education, England and Wales**

(*See also Names of Places.*)

- Age for Beginning School Attendance—Comparison with Foreign Countries.
  - *Qs.* Mr. H. Cox; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 29*, 703, 704.
- Corporal Punishment, Regulations as to—Keeping of Punishment Books, etc.
  - *Qs.* Dr. Cooper, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Pickersgill; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 31*, 1116, 1117.
- List of Schools, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 39.
- Religious Instruction
  - List of Books, Pamphlets, etc., Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 39.
  - Non-provided Schools, Payment in—Effect of Appeal against West Riding Judgment.
    - *Q.* Sir H. Craik; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 700, 701.
  - West Riding Appeal Case, Result of—Reason for Appeal to House of Lords, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Paul, Mr. Clough; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 25*, 423, 424.
- Voluntary Schools—Statement Presented, *Oct. 24*, 169, 178.

**Education (England and Wales) Bill**

- *l. Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 297; *Oct. 29*, 588; *Oct. 30*, 816; *Oct. 31*, 1010; *Nov. 1*, 1222.
- Commissioners, Annual Cost of, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir G. Doughty; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 30*, 869.
- Debates in Committee [Lords], *Oct. 25*, 297; *Oct. 29*, 588; *Oct. 30*, 816; *Oct. 31*, 1010; *Nov. 1*, 1222.
  - Act of 1870 Destroyed by the Bill, alleged, 822, 823, 824, 836, 1232, 1243.
  - Appeal to the Country, Proposals as to, 823.
  - Charitable Endowments and Trusts
    - Adequate Provisions for Preservation of Trusts to be Includcluded in Arrangements, 1055–1064.
    - *Cy près*, Doctrine of, 346.
    - Educational Trusts, Preservation of Buildings erected for Purposes of, 303.
    - Effect on possible Future Trusts, 350, 351.
    - Interference with Purposes of—Right of the Government to vary Terms of Trust Deeds, 314, 347–349, 351, 364, 380.
    - Power of Owners of School houses to carry out Arrangements, to be subject to the Approval of the Board of Education, proposed, 1049–1055.
    - Principles of the Law as to, 344–346.
  - Church of England
    - Attitude of, on Act of 1902, 338.
    - Blow aimed at, alleged, 332, 339, 375, 386, 389, 606.
    - Paradoxical Attitude of, alleged, 341, 1247.
    - Schools, Effect of Clause 1 on, 588–590, 591, 592.
  - Clause 1.
    - Drafting of, 304, 314, 334.
    - Effect of, on Denominational Schools, 588–590, 591, 592.
    - Limiting Operation of to "any School Area in which there is but one public Elementary School, proposed, 605–609.
    - Postponement of, proposed, 588, 591 596.
    - Postponing Date of Operation till 1909, proposed, 596–605.
    - Re-discussion of, on Report Stage, 592–596, 824, 825.
  - Clause 2.
    - Government Amendment of, proproposals as to, 847.

[*cont.*

**Education (England and Wales) Bill**—*cont.*
- Debates in Committee [Lords]—*cont.*
  - Clause 2—*cont.*
    - Motion for Adjournment of Debate, 851-856.
    - Postponement of consideration of till Report State, proposed, 847-849.
  - Clauses not discussed in the Commons, Procedure as to, 333, 334.
  - "Clericalism is the Enemy," 606, 607.
  - Conduct of the Bill in the House of Lords, Proposals as to, 1020–1021
  - Delegation of Powers to Local Authorities, Proposals as to, 352–357, 365–368.
    - Bodies Constituted under Act of 1902, Position of, 356.
    - County Councils Association Attitude towards, 352, 353, 357, 365.
    - Expenses to be Borne by each Particular District, Proposed, 356.
    - Powers Granted to be Uniform, 356, 357.
  - Discussion of Amendments not Placed on the Paper, Procedure as to, 1017–1019.
  - "Facilities" Clause, Opportunity for Discussion, 333, 334.
  - Financial Clauses Guillotined without Discussion in the Commons and Ruled out of Discussion in the Lords on the Ground of Privilege, 315, 316, 384.
  - Foundation Managers, Position of 306.
  - Government Amendments, Proposals as to, 318, 329, 330, 369, 372, 825.
  - Grant of £1,000,000, Allocation of, 316.
  - Irish Church Disestablishment Bill, Analogy of, 330–332, 333.
  - Nonconformist Grievances, 1228.
  - Opposition Amendments, Character of, 337, 371.
  - Petitions against the Bill, Nature and Number of, 313, 383, 658.
  - "Provided Schools," Definition of, 305, 306, 369, 592, 594, 818.
  - Public Control, Proposals as to, 305, 312, 335, 387, 388, 624, 644, 645, 816.
  - Religious Instruction
    - Building on Foundation Laid in 1870 and Developing System then Arranged, Proposed, 1073–1083.

**Education (England and Wales) Bill**—*cont.*
- Debate in Committee [Lords]—*cont.*
  - Religious Instruction—*cont.*
    - Compulsory Attendance, Question of, 304.
    - Cowper-Temple Teaching, Advantages of and Objections to, 311, 312, 342, 343, 619, 637, 1073, 1074, 1079, 1080, 1231, 1232.
    - Definition of, 620, 621, 628, 653, 661.
    - Denominational
      - Children from Church Schools not taken over by Local Authorities, Facilities for, 1251–1252.
      - Facilities for, 323, 362, 384, 1233.
      - Parents, Attitude of, 328.
      - Powers of Managers to Require as a Condition of Transfer, 327.
      - Right of the Parent to Demand, 1272, 1273.
    - Former Attempts to Deal with the Religious Difficulty, 1068–1072.
    - Four-fifths Clause, Injustice of, Alleged, 378, 379, 590.
    - General Satisfaction with Present System, Alleged, 1224, 1225, 1253.
    - Method of Enforcing, 620, 628, 653, 661, 662.
    - Not less than a Clear Half-hour each Morning, Proposed, 1278, 1279.
    - Responsibility for to be Placed with Body of Managers Elected by the Parents, Proposed, 1064–1066, 1234.
    - Right of Free Entry, Proposed, 1083, 1222–1226, 1230–1241, 1245–1250, 1252, 1255–1259, 1274, 1277.
    - Rural Areas where there was but one Public Elementary School, Granting Special Facilities where a Reasonable Number of Parents Demand them, proposed, 1242, 1250, 1251, 1260–1272, 1275–1277.
    - Some Portion of every Day to be set Apart for Purposes of, Proposed, 609–664.
    - Special Facilities
      - No Rent to be charged for Use of Schoolhouse in Cases of, 304.

[*cont.*

**Education (England and Wales) Bill** —*cont.*

Debates in Committee [Lords]—*cont.*

Religious Instruction—*cont.*

Special Facilities—*cont.*

Option of Local Authorities as to Granting of, 590, 616, 617, 621, 622.

Parents of not less than ten Children Desiring, Case of, 1226–1230.

Parents of not less than Twenty Children desiring, Case of, 1083, 1222–1226, 1230–1241, 1245–1250, 1252, 1255–1259.

Two Mornings a Week, Objections to limitation, 1279–1290.

State-provided Compulsory Pan-Denominational Instruction, proposed, 1228, 1229, 1235, 1246, 1248.

Syllabuses of Local Authorities, Character of Instruction given under, 341, 342.

Teachers, *see that subheading.*

Urban Areas where there was but one Public Elementary School, Granting Special Facilities where a reasonable number of Parents demand them, proposed, 1269–1272, 1275–1277.

Roman Catholic Schools, Position of, 836, 837, 843.

"Rural area," Definition of, 1264.

Rural Schools

Appointment and Dismissal of Teachers, Powers of Local Authorities, 307, 308.

Management of, during Transition Period, proposals as to, 307, 363.

Managers

Abolition of, Powers of Local Authorities as to, 355, 367, 368.

Restrictions of Administrative Powers of, 307–309, 367, 368.

Secularism, Verdict of the Country against, Alleged, 303, 321, 339, 375, 638, 1235.

Teachers

Religious Denominational Instruction by, Provisions as to, 317, 385.

Outside Teachers, Objection to Introduction of, 1077, 1078.

**Education (England and Wales) Bill** —*cont.*

Debates in Committee [Lords]—*cont.*

Teachers—*cont.*

Religious Denominational Instruction by—*cont.*

Securing Teachers, Qualified to give the instruction, Necessity for, 816, 817, 1224, 1239.

Selection of Teachers qualified and trained for giving Denominational Instruction, proposed, 322, 323.

Religious Tests for, Abolition of, Proposals as to, 322, 335, 336, 387, 388, 389, 816, 1078, 1079.

Voluntary Schools

Administration of, during Transition Period, proposals as to, 363, 364, 599, 600, 602.

Appeal from Decisions of Local Authorities, Provision of, 379, 831, 832, 833, 842, 1012, 1041, 1042.

Buildings

Rent

Basis of Assessment, 316, 350, 361.

Disposal of, 362.

Commission to facilitate Settlements, 590, 591.

Judicial Functions of, 349.

Number of, 1239, 1243.

Obligation of Owners to hand over all Schools, Question as to, 834, 1021–1024.

Option of Local Authorities as to taking over, 310, 318–321, 377, 378, 385, 828, 829, 830, 834, 836, 837.

"Owner," Definition of the Term, 349.

Position of Schools not taken over by the State, 310, 376, 378.

Taking over by Local Authorities

Consent of any Person whose Consent would have been required under Section 23 of Act of 1870, Obtaining, proposed, 1025–1033.

Failure of Local Authority to come to terms with Owners, Arrangement to be made by Commission, proposed, 1039.

Inquiry by Board of Education in Cases of refusal of Local Authority to take over, proposed, 1039.

[*cont.*

**Education (England and Wales) Bill** —*cont.*

Debates in Committee [Lords]—*cont.*

Voluntary Schools—*cont.*

Taking over by Local Authorities —*cont.*

Making compulsory where Trustees desired the Transfer and the Structure was suitable, proposed, 826–848, 1010, 1012, 1014–1016, 1021–1024.

Regard to be had to Interest of Secular Instruction, Wishes of Parents, and Economy of the Rates, proposed, 1042–1048.

Schools not required for providing Public School Accommodation, Taking over to be Optional, proposed, 1010–1016.

Terms of, 826.

Trust Owners, Granting Option of executing Alterations at the cost of the Local Authority, proposed, 1033–1037.

West Riding Judgment—Question of suspending Debate pending Appeal, 298–302, 381, 382, 383.

Instruction to Committee withdrawn.
*O.* Lord Heneage, *Oct. 23*, 19.

Rates, Levy on to meet Deficiency from Grant.
*Os.* Earl of Camperdown, *Oct. 29*, 586; Earl of Crewe, 587; Marquess of Londonderry, 588.

Rates and Taxes, additional Expenditure to be thrown on—Granting Return as to, proposed.
*Os.* Lord Avebury, *Oct. 23*, 31, 32, 34; Earl of Crewe, 32, 33, 34, 35; Marquess of Londonderry, 33; Lord Wenlock, 34; Lord Heneage, 35.

Repeal Schedule—Education Board Note Presented, *Oct. 25*, 296, 391.

West Riding Judgment, Effect of on conduct of the Bill.
*Os.* Marquess of Lansdowne, *Oct. 23*, 18; Marquess of Ripon, 19.

**Ellis, Rt. Hon. J. E.**—*Under-Secretary for India* [Nottingham, Rushcliffe]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 484; *Oct. 29*, 735.

**Emly, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 605–608.

**Eversley, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 326–333.

**Education, Ireland**

*See also* Names of Places.

Inspectors—System of Appointment.
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 25*, 392.

National School Teachers.

Assistant—Average Attendance required for appointment of.
*Os.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 2*, 1446, 1447.

Promotion System.
*Q.* Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1091.

Conditions of recommending.
*Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 2*, 1450.

Primary System, proposals for improving.
*Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 860.
*Qs.* Mr. Flynn, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Murphy; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1130, 1131.

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 39.

Report of Commissioners — Appendices, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 39.

School Building Grants, Decision as to, etc.
*Os.* Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Sloane; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1128, 1129.

**Education (Provision of Meals)**

Proposal as to and necessity for, etc.
*Qs.* Dr. Macnamara, Mr. H. Cox; *As.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *Oct. 30*, 889.

**Education, Scotland**

*Vice-President of the Council*—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.

*See also* Names of Places.

Report (1906) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Edwards, Mr. A. C.** [Denbigh District]

Army Nurses, Amusements permitted to, *Nov. 1*, 1315.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1454, 1477, 1478.

**Egypt**

British Officers, attack on—Further Paper Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 36.

**Electric Lighting Companies**

Auditors, Procedure in appointing by Board of Trade.
*Q.* Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Mr. Lloyd, George, *Oct. 30*, 865, 866.

**Electric Lighting Provisional Order**

Applications to, and Proceedings of Board of Trade (1896–1905), Return Presented, *Nov. 2*, 1445.

**Employment of Barmaids Bill**

c. 1R.* *Oct. 31*, 1134.

**Enfranchisement of Women**

*See* Women's Suffrage.

**Esmonde, Sir T. G.** [Wexford, N.]
  Evictions—Reinstatements, Progress made with, *Oct. 29*, 796.

**Estate Duty**
  Payment in 1898 in respect of Estate floated in 1900—Certificate granted, etc.
    *Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 29*, 670.
  Revenue—Cost of Collection in England compared with Scotland and Ireland.
    *Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith. *Oct. 29*, 693, 694.

**Estate Duty Office**
  Staff, reason for increase in.
    *Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 25*, 412.

**Evans, Mr. S. T.** [Glamorgan, Mid.]
  Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1439; *Nov. 2*, 1485, 1505.

**Evans-Gordon, Major Sir W.** [Tower Hamlets, Stepney]
  Aliens
    Expulsion Orders, Decisions as to, *Oct. 31*, 1106.
    Foreign Working Men expelled from Prussia, Eligibility of, for admission to Great Britain, *Oct. 31*, 1105, 1106.
  Coast Protection, Proposals as to, *Oct. 21*, 1122.
  Customs Cruiser "Vigilant"—Duration of Cruise of Inspection of, *Oct. 31*, 1122.
  Gipsies, Alien—Effect of Steps taken to prevent further Incursions, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1107.
  Woolwich Arsenal discharged Workmen, Provision of Employment for, *Oct. 31*, 1090.

**Evictions**
  *See under* Ireland *and also* Names of Places and Estates.

**Exeter, Bishop**
  Introduced to House of Lords, *Oct. 23*, 1.

**Exports and Imports**
  Foreign Import Duties on Produce of United Kingdom—Return of Rates. Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 39.
  Ireland—Report (1904) Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222, 1296.

**Faber, Capt. W. V.** [Hants., Andover]
  Gold Reserve—Proposals for Restricting Exports of Gold, *Oct. 30*, 871.

**Factories and Workshops**
  Certificates of Fitness—Order extending to Certain Workshops Presented, *Oct. 23*, 15, 47.

**Factories and Workshops**—*cont.*
  Cotton Manufacture, Safeguards in—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 37.
  Dust Extraction, Illustrations of Methods Presented, *Oct. 25*, 296, 391.
  Inspectors, Assistant, Duties and *status* of
    *Q.* Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 885.
  Locomotives and Wagons—Regulations Presented, *Oct. 23*, 15, 37.
  Outworkers, Regulations as to Supply of Particulars of Prices to.
    *Q.* Mr. J. W. Taylor; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 697.
  Railways and Sidings, etc.—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 37.

**Fairlight**
  War Office Land, Disposal of
    *Q.* Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1314.

**Falchorrib**
  Marine Works, Decision as to.
    *Q.* Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1091.

**Falkland Islands**
  Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Falkland Light Railway**
  Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1296.

**Feeble-Minded, Care and Control of**
  Royal Commission Report, Presentation of, proposed.
    *Q.* Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Nov. 1*, 1348.

**Fell, Mr. A.** [Great Yarmouth]
  Aliens—Payment of Expenses of Expulsion, *Oct. 29*, 695.
  Naval Repairs required at Present Time, Information as to, *Nov. 1*, 1312.
  New Hebrides, Convention as to—Tabling, together with Correspondence, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1327.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 726, 727–729; *Oct. 30*, 907, 910, 926, 930, 981, 986, 987; *Oct. 31*, 1178.
  Woolwich Arsenal Discharges—Number of Men employed, *Oct. 29*, 686.

**Fenwick, Mr. C.** [Northumberland, Wansbeck]
  Coal-mines, Explosions, Causes of, and Measures taken to prevent, *Oct. 29*, 697.

**Ferguson, Mr. R. C. M.** [Leigh Burghs]
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 96.

**Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill**
  Committee of Advice, Formation of and Date of issuing Regulations.
    *Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Oct. 26*, 517.

**Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. G.** [Fermanagh, N.]
  Blacklion Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1303.
  Income Tax Returns, *status* of Officials dealing with, *Nov. 1*, 1305.

**Field, Mr. W.** [Dublin, St. Patrick]
  Camberwell New Road—Alleged Infringement of Building Acts by Erection of Garage, *Oct. 29*, 676.
  County Court Judges—Payment of Deputies, *Oct. 23*, 50.
  Education—Inspectors, System of appointing, *Oct. 25*, 392.
  Meat Inspectors, Qualifications required of, *Oct. 24*, 184.
  Ordnance Survey—Maps, Irish, Place of printing of, *Oct. 29*, 675.
  Phœnix Park—Football and Hurling, Area allotted to, *Oct. 29*, 683.
  Post Office Employees, Inquiry into Grievances of—Inclusion of Abstractors (Assistant Clerks), proposed, *Oct. 23*, 50.
  Post Office Savings Bank Comptroller, Date of Retirement of, *Oct. 24*, 183.
  Railway and Shipping Risk Notes, Conditions of signing by Consignors, *Oct. 25*, 398.
  Railways
    Appeals to Commissioners—Expediting and cheapening Procedure proposed, *Oct. 25*, 397.
    Rates on Agricultural Implements in Ireland, *Nov. 2*, 1449.
  Tuberculosis, Bovine—Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 24*, 184.
  War Office Contracts
    French System of Supply of Meat, Adoption of, proposed, *Oct. 24*, 185.
    Inspection Depot in Dublin, Progress made with, *Oct. 26*, 519.

**First Commissioner of Works**
  *Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt.*

**First Lord of the Admiralty**
  *Lord Tweedmouth*

**First Lord of the Treasury**
  *Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*

**Fisheries**
  Ireland—Report (1905), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 40.
  Scotland—Report of Board, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Fitzmaurice, Lord** — *Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs*
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 358–370, 380; *Oct. 29*, 600–602, 655; *Oct. 31*, 1023, 1054, 1057–1060.

**Flynn, Mr. J. C.** [Cork, N.]
  Education—Primary System, Proposals for improving, *Oct. 31*, 1130.
  Evictions, Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 792.
  Freemount Schools—Decision as to Repairs, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1306.
  Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1407.

**Food**
  Canned Foodstuffs, *see that title.*

**Foreign Office**
  *Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.
  *Under-Secretary*—Lord Fitzmaurice.

**Foreshores**
  Crown Rights, Application of Moneys received for—Treasury Minute Presented, *Oct. 23*, 14.

**Forster, Mr. H. W.** [Kent, Sevenoaks]
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 739, 751, 771, 772; *Oct. 30*, 916, 959.

**Fowler, Rex v.**
  Procedure in Trial, Persons employed to get up.
    *Qs.* Lord R. Cecil, Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Sir J. Walton, *Oct. 29*, 712–714,
    *Qs.* Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Courthope. Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. C. Hay, Mr. H. Beach, Mr. Ashley, Viscount Turnour; *As.* Sir J. Walton, *Nov. 1*, 1338–1342.

**France**
  Courrières Mine Disaster—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 37.

**Franchise Reform**
  Legislative Proposals as to.
    *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 24*, 185.

**Freemount**
  Schools—Decision as to Repairs, etc.
    *Q.* Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1306.

**Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881**
  Natal Act, Order in Council recognising, Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

**Fullerton, Mr. H.** [Cumberland, Egremont]
  Transvaal Chinese Labour—Convictions for Crimes, *Oct. 24*, 183.

**Galway**
  Constabulary Force, Strength of (1905 and 1906).
    *Qs.* Mr. Long; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 2*, 1447–1449.
  Malicious Injury Cases—Claims for Compensation.
    *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1131.

[*cont.*

**Galway**—*cont.*

Parliamentary Election—New Writ issued, *Oct. 24*, 177.

Queen's College—Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 40.

**Gambia**

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Germany**

Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5, 6.

**Gibbs, Mr. G. A.** [Bristol, W.]

London, Defence of—Proposals for Disposing of Sites and Buildings, etc., *Oct. 29*, 671.

**Gibraltar**

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 41.

**Gilhooly, Mr. J.** [Cork Co., W.]

Ballycomane Farm, Purchase of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 860.

**Gipsies**

Alien Gipsies wandering about the Country. Danger and Annoyance caused by, Expulsion proposed.

*Qs.* Sir H. Vincent, Mr. Meysey Thompson, Mr. Lupton, Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 414, 415.

Effect of Steps taken to prevent further Incursions of Gipsies, etc.

*Q.* Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1107.

**Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.**—*Secretary of State for the Home Department* [Leeds, W.]

Aliens

Birow, S., T. Genen and J. Gureivitz, Cases of, *Oct. 30*, 885, 886.

Convictions and Expulsions, Information as to, *Oct. 29*, 678.

Orders, Decision as to enforcing, *Oct. 31*, 1106.

Payment of Expenses of Expulsion, *Oct. 29*, 695.

Foreign Working Men expelled from Prussia, Eligibility of, for admission to Great Britain, *Oct. 31*, 1105, 1106.

Undesirables not admitted to United States, Treatment of, on Arrival in England, *Oct. 30*, 881, 882.

Bolton Poaching Case—Sentences on Prisoners, etc., *Oct. 30*, 884.

Bristol—Procedure in Inquest on Body of C. Buck, *Oct. 29*, 678.

Coal Mines

Explosions, Causes of and Measures taken to Prevent, *Oct. 29*, 696, 697.

**Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.**—*cont.*

Coal Mines—*cont.*

Naked Lights, Dangers of—Mention made in Inspectors' Reports, etc., *Oct. 29*, 696.

Coroners' Inquests — Trade Union Officials, Right of, to attend as Representative of Deceased, *Oct. 30*, 882, 883.

Diachylon—Scheduling as Poison, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 883.

Docks — Regulations for Protection of Life, Date of coming into Force, *Oct. 25*, 396.

Durham Prison—Price asked for making Ships' Fenders, *Oct. 29*, 695.

Factories

Inspectors, Assistant, *status* and Duties of, *Oct 30*, 885.

Outworkers, Regulations as to Supply of Particulars of Prices to, *Oct. 29*, 697.

Gipsies, Alien, Expulsion of, proposed *Oct. 25*, 415.

Effect of Steps taken to prevent, further Incursions, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1107.

Gloucester Prison Outbreak, Cause of, *Oct. 31*, 1107, 1108.

Guernsey, Evasion of Stamp Duties by Joint Stock Companies, Registering in, *Oct. 30*, 886.

Holloway Prison—Allegations as to Presence of Rats, *Nov. 1*, 1329.

Imperial Stock and Share Exchange, Circular issued by—Decision as to Proceedings, *Oct. 29*, 695.

Juvenile Offenders

Committals during 1905–6, *Oct. 31*, 1093.

Imprisonment for Non-payment of Fine, proposals for Obviating *Oct. 31*, 1103.

London Restaurants — Regulations as to Extension of Closing Time, *Oct. 31*, 1112, 1113.

Maidstone Prison Disturbance

Cause of, *Nov. 1*, 1302.

Mutinous Convicts, Sentences on *Oct. 31*, 1110, 1111.

Matches, Prohibition of use of White Phosphorus for — Reason for refusal of British Delegates to sign Convention at Berne, *Oct. 25*, 417.

Motors

Accidents — Metropolitan Statistics during September, *Oct. 31*, 1094.

Omnibuses — Danger arising from Side-slip, *Oct. 25*, 413; *Oct. 31*, 1105.

Police Powers of Regulating Traffic, *Oct. 25*, 418.

[*cont.*

**Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.**—*cont.*

Motors—*cont.*

Prosecutions—Discretionary Powers of Police, *Oct. 31*, 1104, 1105.

Traction Engine Traffic, Annoyance caused by—Procedure as to Prosecutions, etc., *Oct. 25*, 418 ; *Oct. 31*, 1104.

Nettleton, Mr., Case of, *Oct. 31*, 1112.

Power, Jeremiah, Case of, *Nov. 1*, 1328.

Prisons

Employment of Prisoners, System of, *Nov. 1*, 1302.

Local

Numbers used for Convicts, *Nov. 1*, 1330.

Scale of Pay of Officials, *Oct. 29*, 694.

Soap Trust, Weight of Packets sold by, *Oct. 25*, 414.

Staple Hill Colliery Company, Limited, Allegations as to dangerous Proceedings by, *Oct. 25*, 416.

Vivisection, Royal Commission

Constitution of, *Oct. 25*, 419.

Privacy of Sittings, Decision as to and Precedents for, *Oct. 31*, 1108.

Watt, H., Case of—Decision as to Sentence, *Oct. 23*, 53 ; *Oct. 30*, 884.

Women's Franchise Movement — Disturbance in Lobby.

Pankhurst, Miss, Sentence on, *Oct. 25*, 420 ; *Oct. 26*, 518.

Release of Persons sentenced, proposed, *Oct. 26*, 519.

Sentence on Offenders, *Oct. 31*, 1109, 1110.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Insurance in certain Industries, effect on, *Oct. 25*, 395 ; *Oct. 30*, 870.

**Glamorganshire**

Parliamentary Election for Mid Division—New Writ issued and New Member sworn, *Oct. 23*, 61.

**Glanders**

London, Percentage of Cases in, Measures taken to stamp out.
*Qs.* Earl of Mayo, *Oct. 23*, 27 ; Earl Carrington, 29.

**Glasgow**

Barlinnie Prison Accommodation.
*Q.* Mr. Mitchell-Thomson ; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 30*, 868, 869.

**Glastonbury Abbey**

Sale, proposals as to, etc.
*Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray ; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 25*, 394.

**Gloucester**

Prison Outbreak, Cause of.
*Qs.* Mr. G. Baring, Mr. C. Hay ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1107, 1108.

**Gold Coast**

Order in Council, 1906, Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Gold Reserve, &c.**

*See under* Coinage and Currency.

**Goschen, Viscount**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 301–312, 360. 363, 364, 367, 369 ; *Oct. 30*, 848 ; *Nov. 1*, 1242–1245.

**Government Departments**

Contracts—Observance of Fair Wages Clause, etc.
*Q.* Mr. O'Grady ; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 31*, 1086.

Waygood and Company, Messrs., Wages paid by.
*Q.* Mr. O'Grady ; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 31*, 1087.

Messengerships, Appointment of Ex-service Men to, proposed.
*Qs.* Sir S. Scott, Mr. Byles ; *As.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *Oct. 31*, 1133, 1134.

**Greenwich Observatory**

London County Council, Power Station, effect of—Result of Investigation.
*Q.* Mr. Ashley ; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 31*, 1098.

**Greenwood, Mr. G.** [Peterborough]

Vivisection Royal Commission Sittings, Press admission to, *Oct. 31*, 1108.

**Grenada**

Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 34, 41.

**Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.**—*Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* [Northumberland, Berwick]

Abyssinia

Agreement between Great Britain, France and Italy, Emperor Menelik's consent to, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1328.

Harrar, Governor Appointed to, *Oct. 30*, 879.

Africa, West—Portuguese Islands of San Thomé, Principe, etc., Condition of Coolie Labour in, *Oct. 29*, 675.

Aland Islands, Russian Occupation of, *Oct. 25*, 411.

Anglo-Japanese Treaty, Provisions of, *Oct. 30*, 864.

[*cont.*

**Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.**—*cont.*
Austria-Hungary—Eighty Club Deputation to certain Hungarian Political Organisations, *Oct. 25*, 411.
Baghdad Railway Project, Progress made with, *Nov. 1*, 1326.
Busra—Murder of Messrs. Lynch's Agent, Sentences Inflicted on Persons Implicated, etc., *Oct. 30*, 862.
China
Amoy—Reparation made in Case of Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie, *Oct. 30*, 863.
Canton Delta, Piracy in—Proposals for Protection of Commerce, *Nov. 1*, 1327.
Customs, Imperial Maritime
Administration, Conditions of, *Oct. 25*, 411.
Hart, Sir R., Position of, under new Decree, *Oct. 26*, 516; *Nov. 1*, 1327.
Railways — Shanghai - Nanking and Suchan-Hangchan-Ningpo, Progress made with, *Oct. 30*, 863.
Curacoa Sulphate Mines, Law as to Working of, *Oct. 30*, 879.
Diplomatic and Consular Service, Aliens and Levantines in, *Oct. 30*, 880, 881.
Morocco Disturbances—Measures for Protection of British Subjects at Arzila, *Oct. 30*, 881.
New Hebrides Convention—Tabling, together with Correspondence proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1327.
Newfoundland Fisheries, *modus vivendi* with United States—Proposals as to Tabling Correspondence, *Oct. 30*, 878.
Russian Duma—Effect of Projected British Deputation, etc., *Oct. 25*, 410, 411.

**Grimthorpe, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 336–344, 373; *Oct. 29*, 599; *Oct. 30*, 844.
Peers Sitting and Voting during Session without having taken the Oath—Question of Privilege, *Nov. 1*, 1293.

**Guatemala**
Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4.

**Guernsey**
Joint Stock Companies, Practice of Registering—Evasion of Stamp Duty, etc. *Q.* Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct., 30*, 886.

**Gulland, Mr. J. W.** [Dumfries Burghs]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 991–993, 994, 995.

**Gurdon, Sir W. B.** [Norfolk, N.]
Africa, South—Statement as to Imperial Control over Swazis made by Lord Selborne, *Oct. 29*, 673.

**Gurdon, Sir W. B.**—*cont.*
Africa, West—Portuguese Islands of San Thomé, Principé, etc., Condition of Coolie Labour in, *Oct. 29*, 675.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 480.
Transvaal Self-Government—Letters Patent, Date of Issue of, etc., *Oct. 29*, 674.

**Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.**—*Secretary of State for War* [Haddington]
Bayonet—Pattern, Decision as to, *Oct. 29*, 685.
Belfast Canteen, Supply of Beer and Groceries to, *Oct. 30*, 872.
Bermuda Military Establishment, Colonial Contribution towards Cost of, proposed, *Oct. 24*, 186.
Bexhill—Proposal for Erection of Sea-wall in Front of War Office Land, *Nov. 1*, 1314.
Bremner, Mr. D., Case of, *Oct. 30*, 872.
Canned Foodstuffs—American—Report of Lt.-Col. Hobbs, *Nov. 1*, 1311.
Cavalry—Decision as to Quartering Regiment in Edinburgh, *Oct. 25*, 401; *Oct. 31*, 1090.
Crimea and Indian Mutiny Veterans' Association, War Office Assistance to proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1300.
Drake, Henry, Cowley Barracks Engineman, Case of, *Oct. 25*, 407.
Duke of York's School Site, Decision as to, *Oct. 29*, 685.
Enfield Factory—Wages of Labourers, *Oct. 29*, 686.
Fairlight—Disposal of War Office Land, *Nov. 1*, 1314.
Indian Army
Pay—Effect of Recent Changes on Additional Charge of 1902, *Oct. 31*, 1089.
Quick-firing Guns, Progress made with Supplying, *Oct. 31*, 1088.
Inniskilling Dragoons, Sixth—Reason for Selecting Yeomanry Officers for Attachment, *Oct. 30*, 875.
London, Defence of.
Cost of Redoubts, *Oct. 25*, 406.
Expenditure on, proposals for Utilising Sites, etc, *Oct. 29*, 671; *Nov. 1*, 1308.
Mauritius Garrison, Strength of—Military Expenditure during last Five Years, etc., *Oct. 29*, 685.
Nurses, Amusements permitted to, *Nov. 1*, 1315, 1316.
*Personnel* Reduction of—Disposal of Officers of Disbanded Regiments, *Oct. 30*, 873.

[*cont.*

**Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.**—*cont.*
Pimlico Clothing Factory
Piecework, Payment for, *Oct. 29*, 673.
Reduction in Prices, proposals as to. *Oct. 25*, 406, 407.
Rifle Clubs—proposal as to War Office Assistance, *Oct. 30*, 875.
Shoebury
Firing Practice of June 4, Result of Inquiry as to, *Nov. 2*, 1451.
Fisheries, War Office Purchase of—Decision as to Issue of Regulations, *Nov. 1*, 1316.
Soldiers
Civil Employment on Discharge Information as to, *Nov. 1*, 1299.
Disabled and Incurable, Maintenance of—Case of Lance-Corporal Gray, *Nov. 1*, 1299.
South African War Stores, Royal Commission of Inquiry into—Distinctions made in Punishment Awarded, etc., *Oct. 25*, 403–406.
Swords and Sword Bayonets, Orders for. *Oct. 30*, 876.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1371–1375, 1377.
Volunteers—Training, Decision as to, *Oct. 30*, 875.
War Office
Meat Contracts—French System of Supply, Adoption of, proposed, *Oct. 24*, 185.
Munitions of War, Allocation of Contracts for, *Oct. 31*, 1089.
Soap Contracts, Allocation of, *Oct. 30*, 876.
Woolwich Arsenal
Discharged Workmen, Provision of Work for, *Oct. 31*, 1090.
Discharges
Cause for—Case of J. Whitworth, *Oct. 31*, 1089.
Number of Men Employed, etc., *Oct. 29*, 686.

**Halifax**
Post Office
Telegraphists, Sorting Duties performed by.
*Q.* Mr. Parker ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29*, 669.
Telephone Operators, Alleged Overcrowding of.
*Q.* Mr. Parker ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29*, 669.

**Halifax, Viscount**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 595, 623 ; *Oct. 30*, 843 ; *Oct. 31*. 1064–1066 ; *Nov. 1*, 1272–1274, 1275. 1286.

**Halsbury, Earl of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 605, 663 ; *Oct. 31*, 1043.
Peers Sitting and Voting during Session without having taken the Oath—Question of Privilege, *Nov. 1*, 1293.

**Harcourt, Rt. Hon. L.**—*First Commissioner of Works* [Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale]
Glastonbury Abbey, Projected Sale of, *Oct. 25*, 394.
Government Departments Contracts
Observance of Fair Wages Clause, *Oct. 31*, 1086.
Soap Contracts, Allocation of, *Oct. 30*, 891.
Waygood & Co., Messrs., Wages paid by, *Oct. 31*, 1087.
House of Commons Construction—alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 57, 58.
Mall to Charing Cross Improvement—Decision as to Houses at Charing Cross end, *Oct. 25*, 427 ; *Nov. 1*, 1338.
Parliament Square, Reason for Flowers dying, *Oct. 29*, 672.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 191, 195, 197, 204, 236, 254, 255, 263, 265, 275, 278, 279, 280, 281, 291 ; *Oct. 25*, 443, 452, 454, 478–479, 485, 489, 498 ; *Oct. 26*, 522, 523, 526, 536, 559, 560, 561, 562, 567, 571, 574, 575, 580 ; *Oct. 29*, 720, 721, 726, 729, 731, 734, 745, 747, 748, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 758, 764, 765, 766, 770, 773, 775, 776, 777 ; *Oct. 30*, 900, 908, 909, 910, 915, 916, 923, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 932, 937, 970, 972, 974, 975, 977, 978, 980 ; *Oct. 31*, 1175, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1190, 1194, 1195, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1220.
Regent's Park Fence—Reason for Substituting Iron Railings, *Oct. 25*, 393, 428 ; *Oct. 29*, 681.
Stibbert Bequest, Reason for Refusal of, *Oct. 25*, 428.

**Hardie, Mr. J. K.** [Merthyr Tydvil]
Bengal, Partition of—Parliamentary Discussion proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1318.
Coal-mines—Measures taken to prevent Explosions, *Oct. 29*, 697.
Corrupt Practices Act—Powers of Landlord to threaten Tenant for exhibiting Political Placards, *Oct. 29*, 714.
Curaçoa Sulphate Mines, Law as to working of, *Oct.* 30, 879.
Maesteg—Allegations as to throwing of Two Non-unionists into a River, *Oct. 30*, 892.
Military Instruction in Schools, Payment of Cost of, *Oct. 25*, 426.
Spain, Reason for Expulsion of G. Bowman, *Oct. 29*, 692, 693.

[*cont.*

**Hardie, Mr. J. K.**—*cont.*

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 1*, 1400.

Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Lobby—Sentence on Offenders, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1109, 1110.

Pankhurst, Miss, Sentence on, *Oct. 25*, 419; *Oct. 26*, 518.

Release of Persons sentenced for Disorderly Conduct proposed, *Oct. 26*, 519.

**Hardy, Mr. L.** [Kent, Ashford]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 266.

**Harmood-Banner, Mr. J. S.** [Liverpool, Everton]

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 99–102, 108.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 257, 273–276; *Oct. 25*, 446, 483, 488; *Oct. 26*, 575–577; *Oct. 30*, 999, 1000; *Oct. 31*, 1187, 1193.

**Harris, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 30*, 850, 852.

**Hay, Mr. C. G. D.** [Shoreditch, Hoxton]

Blackler, Rex *v.*, Report of Proceedings, etc., *Oct. 29*, 711.

Burwell Estate, Number of Holdings on, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1123.

Corrupt Practices Acts, Prosecutions under, *Oct. 29*, 713.

Eighty Club Deputation to Certain Hungarian Political Organisations, *Oct. 25*, 411.

Fowler, Rex *v.*—Procedure in Trial of, *Nov. 1*, 1339.

Gipsies, Alien, Expenditure incurred by Local Authorities in dealing with, *Oct. 25*, 415.

Gloucester Prison Outbreak, Cause of, *Oct. 31*, 1108.

House of Commons Construction—Alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 58.

Mall to Charing Cross Improvement—Proposals as to Removal of Houses at Charing Cross End, *Oct. 25*, 427; *Nov. 1*, 1338.

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 106, 121, 137, 140, 143.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 275, 280; *Oct. 25*, 493–497; *Oct. 30*, 1004; *Oct. 31*, 1209, 1219.

Prisons, Local—Scale of Pay of Officials, *Oct. 29*, 694.

Russian Duma—Effect of Projected British Deputation, etc., *Oct. 25*, 410.

**Hay, Mr. C. G. D.**—*cont.*

Soap Trust

Contracts for Government Departments, Allocation of, *Oct. 30*, 874, 876, 891, 898.

Weight of Packets Sold by, *Oct. 25*, 414.

Soldiers, Civil Employment of, on Discharge, *Nov. 1*, 1299.

Stibbert Bequest, Reason for Refusal of, *Oct. 25*, 428.

Telegraph Service—Betting by Telegram, Computation of Loss of Revenue which might ensue by Prohibition of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.

Telephone Service—Betting by Telephone, Proposals for preventing, *Nov. 1*, 1336.

Wireless Telegraphy, Conference at Berlin, Opportunity for discussing Report, *Oct. 25*, 421.

**Hazelton, Mr. R.** [Galway, N.]

Parliamentary Debates—Practice as to reporting Speeches of Members, *Oct. 29*, 710.

**Heaton, Mr. J. H.** [Canterbury]

Canned Foodstuffs, American—Report of Lieutenant Colonel Hobbs, *Nov. 1*. 1311.

**Helmsley, Lord** [Yorks, N.R., Thirsk]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 233–235.

**Henderson, Mr. A.** [Durham, Barnard Castle]

Factory Inspectors, Assistant, Duties and *status* of, *Oct. 30*, 885.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 264; *Oct. 26*, 536; *Oct. 29*, 733, 749, 750, 752, 754; *Oct. 30*, 974; *Oct. 31*, 1198, 1218.

Swords and Sword Bayonets, Orders for, *Oct. 30*, 875.

**Heneage, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 29*, 609–615, 619, 622; *Oct. 30*, 847; *Oct. 31*, 1023, 1024.

Instruction to Committee, Withdrawal of, *Oct. 23*, 19.

Rates and Taxes, Additional Expenditure to be thrown on, *Oct. 23*, 35.

**Henry, Mr. C. S.** [Shropshire, Wellington]

Magistrates, Appointment of — Duties of Lords-Lieutenant, *Oct. 25*, 430.

**Herbert, Mr. T. A** [Bucks, Wycombe]

Lyningham-with-Filgrave School, Decision as to, *Oct. 25*, 396.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 1*, 1386–1388.

**Hereford, Bishop of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 30*, 833; *Nov. 1*, 1241, 1259–1261.

**Herries, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 843; *Oct. 31*, 1013; *Nov. 1*, 1275.

**Historical Manuscripts**
Royal Commission Report, Vol. IV., Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 46.

**Hobart, Sir R.** [Hants, New Forest]
Cobham — Compensation paid for "Crown" Public house, *Oct. 25*, 398.
Lyndhurst — Payment of Rates on Holiday Hill Keeper's Lodge, *Oct. 30*, 867.
Magistrates, County, Alteration in Procedure as to Appointment of, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1347.
Southampton Union Area, Proposals for Altering — Reason for holding Inquiry, etc., *Oct, 31*, 1114.

**Hobhouse, Mr. C. E. H.** [Bristol, E.]
Ecclesiastical Commission Funds, Information as to, *Nov. 1*, 1342, 1343.

**Holloway Prison**
Rats, Allegations as to Presence of—Authority Responsible for Sanitary State of Prison, etc.
*Qs.* Dr. Cooper, Mr. J. M. Robertson; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Nov. 1*, 1328, 1329.

**Home Office**
*Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.
*Under-Secretary*—Mr. H. Samuel.

**Hooper, Mr. A. G.** [Dudley]
Coroners' Inquests—Right of Trade Union Officials to Attend as Representative of deceased, *Oct. 30*, 882.

**Hope, Mr. W. H. B.** [Somerset, N.]
Bristol — Procedure in Inquest on Body of C. Buck, *Oct. 29*, 678.
Paupers, Register of—Number of Boards refusing to keep, *Oct. 29*, 700.

**Horridge, Mr. T. G.** [Manchester, E.]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 463–465.

**Horses**
Glanders, Pleuro-Pneumonia, etc., *see those titles.*
Importation of, into Ireland—Agricultural Department Order, Reason for Exemption of Army Horses, etc.
*Qs.* Earl of Mayo, *Oct. 23*, 26; Lord Denman, 27, 28; Earl Carrington, 28, 29.

**House of Commons**
*See under* Parliament.

**House of Lords**
*See under* Parliament.

**Housing of the Working Classes**
Ireland, Schemes in—Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 43.

**Houston, Mr. R. P.** [Liverpool, W. Toxteth]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 64, 66, 67, 77–79.

**Hudson, Mr. W.** [Newcastle-on-Tyne]
Railways—Midland Company, Practice of placing untrained Men in charge of Goods Trains, *Nov. 1*, 1330.
Salisbury Railway Disaster—Rule under which Guard was charged, *Nov. 1*, 1330.

**Hutton**
Poplar Poor Law Schools, Expenditure on and Accommodation afforded by.
*Q.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 701.

**Imperial Institute**
Colonial Contributions—Statement Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 41.
Cost of, Donations received, etc.
*Q.* Mr. H. Cox; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Nov. 1*, 1331.
Indian Section—Report (1905–6) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 43.

**Imperial Stock and Share Exchange**
Circular issued by—Decision as to Proceedings under Lotteries, Acts.
*Q.* Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 695.

**Imports and Exports**
*See* Exports and Imports.

**Income Tax**
Assessments (1904 and 1905) Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 45.
District Commissioners, Delegation of Duties of.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 30*, 861, 862.
Returns, *status* of Officials dealing with.
*Q.* Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Nov. 1*, 1305.

**Income Tax Acts**
Reconsideration and Codification of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 25*, 412.

**India**
Army
Commission, distributing among Officers serving with British Units, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 25*, 399.

**India**—*cont.*

Army—*cont.*

Moplah Battalions, use of, on North-West Frontier Defence.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 686, 687.

Pay—Effect of recent Changes o Additional Charge of 1902.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 3*, 1088, 1089.

Poona—Accommodation for Married Officers.
*Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 31*, 1097 1098.

Quick-firing Guns, Progress made with Supply of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 31*, 1088.

Bengal

Chowkidari Tax, Remission of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Nov. 1*, 1306.

Fuller, Sir J. B., reason for Resignation of—Tabling Papers, proposed.
*Q.* Earl Percy; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 689.

Partition

Agitation against—Tabling Papers proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 689, 690.

Mussulman Deputation to Viceroy, Views of Members of.
*Q.* Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 31*, 1088.

Parliamentary Discussion and re-issue of Papers proposed.
*Qs.* Dr. Rutherford, Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Morley, Mr. Speaker, *Nov. 1*, 1316–1318.

Bengal Tenancy Act, Surveys made under.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 31*, 1087.

Bombay

Mecca Pilgrims—Removal of Quarantine Regulations.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 30*, 871.

Police, Extension of New Scheme of Pay to.
*Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 670.

Cherra State, Decision as to Siem of.
*Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 688.

**India**—*cont.*

Chumbi Road, Poposals for Improvement of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 682.

Cotton, *see that title.*

East India Company Officials, Promotions, etc., of.
*Q.* Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 30*, 871.

Ganges Bridge

Godagiri, Decision as to Construction at.
*Q.* Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr Morley, *Nov. 1*, 1316.

Sara Bridge Project, reason for Postponement of.
*Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 670.

Legislative Council, Representative Element in—Proposals as to Extension.
*Os.* Lord Ampthill, *Oct. 23*, 29, 30, 31, Earl Beauchamp, 30.

Loans raised in England—Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 14, 43.

Madras Police—Reason for employing Officer from Burma.
*Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 671.

Memorials and Petitions, Regulations as to Presentation of.
*Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 687.

Railway Administration—Report (1905) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 42.

Sanitary Measures—Report (1904–5) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 42.

Services—Resolutions issued as to Grant of Exchange Compensation Allowance, Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 43.

Statistical Abstract 1895–6 to 1904–5 Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 42.

Telegraphic Rate to, Proposals for reducing.
*Qs.* Sir E. Sassoon; *As.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 31*, 1097.
*Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1304.

**India Office**

*Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. J. Morley.
*Under-Secretary*—Rt. Hon. J. E. Ellis.

**Indo-China, French**

Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Inebriate Retreats**

Ireland—Report (1905) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 40.

**Innishlyre**

Marine Works, Proposals as to.
*Q.* Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 29*, 683, 684.

**Ireland**
*Chief Secretary*—Rt. Hon. J. Bryce.
*Lord-Lieutenant*—Earl of Aberdeen.
*Attorney-General*—Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.
*Solicitor-General*—Mr. R. Barry.
*See also* Names of Places.
Constabulary, Royal Irish, *see that title.*
Deputy Lieutenants, Number and Religion of.
*Q.* Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 23*, 51.
Education, *see title* Education—Ireland.
Evictions
Notices—Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 43.
Reinstatements, Progress made with—Effect of Act of 1903, etc.
*Os.* Mr. J. Redmond, *Oct. 29*, 778, 802, 808; Mr. Bryce, 786, 800, 803, 810, 811; Mr. Duffy, 788; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 791; Mr. Flynn, 792; Mr. Tomkinson, 793; Mr. Delany, 794; Mr. Byles, 795; Mr. Barrie, 796; Sir T. Esmonde, 798; Mr. Long, 810, 811; Mr. W. Redmond, 811.
*Q.* Mr. J. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 23*, 53, 54.
*Qs.* Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 29*, 715–717.
Return Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222, 1296.
Fisheries, *see under title* Fisheries.
Home Rule—Australian Address to the King and Reply thereto, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 41.
Horses, Importation of, *see under* Horses.
Land Act, Land Commission, Land Judge's Court, Land Purchase, *see those titles.*
Lights and Lighthouses, *see that title.*
MacDonnell, Sir A.
Position of—Correspondence, etc., Publication of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 29*, 672.
Speech foreshadowing Home Rule—Sanction of Cabinet, etc.
*Q.* Capt. Craig; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1124, 1125.
Munster-Connaught Exhibition, Alleged Exclusion of British Flag from.
*Qs.* Capt. Craig; Mr. Joyce; *As.* Mr. Bryce, Mr. Speaker, *Oct. 31*, 1126, 1127.
Royal University—Regulations as to issue of Tickets admitting to conferring of Degrees.
*Q.* Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 895, 896.
Tobacco Cultivation in, *see under* Tobacco.
Trinity College, Commission—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 38.

**Irish Language**
Teaching in Schools—Gaelic League Scheme Decision as to.
*Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1127.

**Isaacs, Mr. R. D.** [Reading]
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1434–1438.

**Islington**
Poor Law Guardians, Interest on Bank Balance of.
*Q.* Mr. Radford; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 702.

**Italy**
Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Jamaica**
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Japan**
Anglo-Japanese Treaty, Provisions of.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30*, 864.
Commercial Relations with Canada—Convention Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 36.
Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Jardine, Sir J.** [Roxburghshire]
Africa, West—Prospectus of British West Africa Produce Company, Ltd., Identity of Chairman, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1321, 1323.
Post Office Private Boxes—Effect of Increased Charges, *Nov. 1*, 1336.
Traction Engines—Revision of Scottish Regulations proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1343.

**Jenkins, Mr. J.** [Chatham]
Naval Dockyard Wages—Distribution of £60,000, *Nov. 1*, 1313.

**Jersey, Earl of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 831; *Nov. 1*, 1240.

**Joicey, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.* *Nov. 1*, 1277.

**Jones, Mr. L.** [Westmorland, Appleby]
Transvaal—Spirit Duty, Proposals as to alteration in, *Oct. 29*, 691.

**Jones, Sir D. B.** [Swansea District]
Straits Settlements Currency Ordinance Provisions of, *Oct. 30*, 864.

**Joyce, Mr. M.** [Limerick]
Lisnagry—Case of T. Ryan, *Oct. 30*, 897 *Oct. 31*, 1133.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 95, 156.
Munster-Connaught Exhibition—Alleged Exclusion of British Flag, *Oct. 31*, 1126.
Telegrams, Charge for Re-directing, *Nov. 1*, 1336.

**Judicial Statistics**
Scotland—Report (1905), Presented, *Oct. 29*, 585, 668.

**Juvenile Offenders**
Committals during 1905–6.
*Q.* Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1092, 1093.
Imprisonment for Non-payment of Fines, Proposals for Obviating.
*Q.* Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1102, 1103.

**Kearley, Mr. H. E.**—*Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade* [Devonport]
Census of Production Bill, Provisions of and Proposals as to, *Oct. 31*, 1121.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144.
Railway Signalmen, Duties of, *Oct. 31*, 1120, 1121.

**Keighley**
Post Office—Conditions of Service.
*Q.* Mr. Brigg; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1304.

**Kells**
Pier, Memorial as to Construction of.
*Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 894.

**Kenyon-Slaney, Col.** [Shropshire, Newport]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 241; *Oct. 29*, 774, 776.

**Kilgarvan**
Postal Facilities, Proposals for Improving.
*Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 30*, 898, 899.

**King, Sir H. S.** [Hull, Central]
Burma Police Grievances, Removal of, *Oct. 29*, 671.
India
Army—Accommodation for Married Officers at Poona, *Oct. 31*, 1097.
Bombay Police, Extension of New Pay Scheme to, *Oct. 29*, 670.
Madras—Police Officer from Burma, Employment of, *Oct. 29*, 671.
Sara Bridge Project, Reason for Postponement of, *Oct. 29*, 670.

**Kingston-upon-Hull**
Seamen's Lodging-houses—Order in Council Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

**Lagos**
Hausa Population, Reply to Memorial from.
*Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25*, 407, 408.
Report (1905), Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222.

**Lambton, Mr. F. W.** [Durham, S.E.]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 463; *Oct. 31*, 1144.

**Lampeter, Aberayron and New Quay Light Railway**
Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1295.

**Lancaster, Duchy of**
Chancellor—*Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.*

**Land Commission, Ireland**
[*For* particular Estates, *see their names.*]
Fair Rent Appeals—Number of Cases awaiting Hearing,
*Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 896.
Proceedings—Returns Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 11, 39, 40; *Oct. 25*, 296, 391.

**Land Purchase, Ireland**
*See also* Names of Estates, etc.
Advances
Delay, Allegations as to.
*Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 25*, 400.
Number Applied for, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 25*, 400.
Report of Estates Commissioners
Parliamentary Discussion, Opportunity for.
*Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 25*, 399.
Reports 1903–1906, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 11, 40.

**Lane-Fox, Mr. G.** [Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 193, 262; *Oct. 26*, 526, 551; *Oct. 30*, 925.
Selby Abbey, Destruction of—Government Assistance towards Rebuilding, proposed, *Oct. 26*, 520.

**Lansdowne, Marquess of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. Oct. 25*, 298; *Oct. 29*, 593–595, 603, 623–627; *Oct. 30*, 825, 841–843, 849, 856; *Oct. 31*, 1013–1016, 1019, 1044, 1062, 1063; *Nov. 1*, 1236–1240, 1258, 1276.
West Riding Judgment, Effect of on Conduct of the Bill, *Oct. 23*, 18.

**Law Courts**
Supreme Court of Judicature.
Accounts Presented, *Oct. 23*, 17, 45.

**Law, Mr. A. B.** [Camberwell, Dulwich]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 67–71, 75, 91, 92, 93, 118, 164–166.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 266, 267; *Oct. 25*, 491; *Oct. 29*, 775; *Oct. 31*, 1220.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1375, 1380, 1383; *Nov. 2*, 1504, 1505.

**Law, Mr. H. A.** [Donegal, W.]
- Falchorrib Marine Works. Decision as to, *Oct. 31*, 1091.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Lobby—Sentence on Offenders, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1108.

**Leeward Islands**
- Prisons—Additional Rules and Regulations, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 48.

**Lewis, Island of**
- Aignish Crofter Settlement, Person responsible for Valuation, etc., of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 31*, 1118.
- Dittmar's, Dr., Report, Tabling of proposed.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 30*, 893, 894.
- Sanitary Condition, Proposals for Improvement of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 30*, 893.
- Stornoway, Sanitation—Tabling Dr. Dittmar's Report, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 31*, 1118.

**Liddell, Mr. H.** [Down.]
- Census of Production Bill, Provisions of and proposals as to, *Oct. 31*, 1121.

**Light Dues**
- *See under* Merchant Shipping.

**Limerick**
- Fishery Board Accounts, System of Auditing.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1345.

**Lisnagry**
- Labourer's Cottage, Application of T. Ryan
  - *Qs.* Mr. Joyce; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 897; *Oct. 31*, 1133.

**Liverpool (Birkenhead) Foreign Animals Wharf Order, 1906**
- Presented, *Oct. 26*, 513; *Oct. 29*, 586.

**Landaff, Viscount**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 588–591, 596; *Oct. 31*, 1040.

**Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.**—*President of the Board of Trade* [Carnarvon Boroughs].
- Electric Lighting Companies — Procedure in Appointing Auditor, *Oct. 30*, 866.
- Harbour Boards, Irish, Information as to, *Oct. 23*, 50.
- Imperial Institute, Cost of—Donations Received, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1331.
- Merchant Shipping.
  - Freeboard, Decision as to reducing, *Oct. 31*, 1095.
  - Risk Notes, Condition of signing by Consignors, *Oct. 25*, 398.

**Lloyd George, Rt. D.**—*cont.*
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 62, 67, 69, 85, 104, 109, 111, 113, 115, 135, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 162–164, 168.
- "Pass of Killiecrankie"—Allegations as to Ill-treatment of Apprentices, etc., *Oct. 25*, 420.
- Railway and Canal Commissioners, Proposals for appointing, *Nov. 1*, 1331.
- Railways
  - Appeals to Commissioners—Expediting and cheapening Procedure, proposed, *Oct. 25*, 397.
  - District Electric Railway Fares, Inquiry into Incidence of, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1332.
  - London and North Western Company—Scheme for Pension Fund, *Oct. 29*, 703.
  - Midland Company—Practice of Placing Untrained Men in Charge of Goods Trains, *Nov. 1*, 1331.
  - Risk Notes, Conditions of Signing, by Consignors, *Oct. 25*, 398.
- Salisbury Railway Disaster—Inquiry into Case of Guard proposed, *Oct. 29*, 703; *Nov. 1*, 1330.
- Trade and Commerce
  - Information received from Consuls, *Oct. 30*, 867.
  - Monopolies and Combinations, Proposals for Dealing with, *Oct. 29*, 702; *Nov. 1*, 1333.
- Weights and Measures, Inspection—Effect of New Regulations, *Nov. 1*, 1334.

**Loan Societies**
- Abstract of Accounts Presented, *Oct. 23*, 17, 49.

**Local Government Board**
- *President*—Rt. Hon. J. Burns.
- *Parliamentary Secretary*—Mr. W. Runciman.

**Local Government Board, Ireland**
- Audit of Accounts—Fees Recovered, Return as to, Presented, *Oct. 29*, 668.

**Local Taxation**
- *See under* Taxation.

**Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A.** [Essex, Epping]
- Army
  - Coldstream Guards, Third Battalion—Allowance for Travelling Expenses *Oct. 30*, 877.
  - Waltham Abbey Wages, Decision as to, *Oct. 30*, 876, 877.
- House of Commons—Interval for Dinner Hour, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 899.
- Transvaal Finance Act of 1894, Reason for Non-Application of, *Nov. 1*, 1324.

[cont.

**Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A.**—*cont.*

Weights and Measures—Effect of New Regulations as to Inspection, *Nov. 1*, 1334.

**London**

Defence of

Cost of Redoubts, etc.
*Q.* Mr. H. Cox; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 25*, 406.

Sites and Buildings, Proposals for Disposing of
*Q.* Mr. Gibbs; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29*, 671.
*Q.* Mr. Brodie; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1308.

Restaurants—Regulations as to Extension of Closing Time.
*Qs.* Mr. Belloc, Mr. Pickersgill; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1112, 1113.

**London, Bishop of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 591; *Oct. 31*, 1043.

**London County Council**

Private Bills, Expenses in Promoting and Opposing—Return Ordered, *Oct. 25*, 392.

**Londonderry**

Shop Hours Act, Order made under, Presented, *Oct. 26*, 513; *Oct. 29*, 586.

**Londonderry, Marquess of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 333–336, 340; *Oct. 29*, 600, 629; *Oct. 30*, 821, 822, 829; *Oct. 31*, 1022, 1029, 1047.

Cost of, Question of Levy on the Local Rates, *Oct. 29*, 588.

Rates, Additional Expenditure to be thrown on, *Oct. 23*, 33.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 172.

**Long, Mr. W. H.** [Dublin, S.]

Evictions—Reinstatements, Progress made with, *Oct. 29*, 810, 811.

Galway Constabulary Force, Strength of, *Nov. 2*, 1447, 1449.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 721, 727; *Oct. 30*, 976, 980, 997.

**Lonsdale, Mr. J. B.** [Armagh, Mid.]

China — Customs, Imperial Maritime, Position of Sir R. Hart, *Oct. 26*, 516.

Coastguard Stations to be Closed in Ireland, *Oct. 26*, 517.

Dublin—Bank of Ireland Premises, Proposals as to Acquisition of, *Oct. 26*, 519.

**Lonsdale, Mr. J. B.**—*cont.*

Land Purchase

Advances

Delay, Allegations as to, *Oct. 25*, 400.

Number Applied for, etc., *Oct. 25*, 400.

Report of Estates Commissioners, Opportunity for Discussing, etc., *Oct. 25*, 399.

Loughrea District Council, Claims against, for Malicious Injury, *Oct. 31*, 1128.

Mitchelstown Nationalist Demonstration—Use of Flag taken by Police in 1887, *Oct. 30*, 858.

Morocco—Accession of Sultan to Algeciras Act, *Oct. 31*, 1102.

Nigeria—proposals as to Railway Extension, *Oct. 31*, 1100.

O'Halloran, Constable, Attack on—reason for Discharge of Arrested Persons, etc. *Oct. 31*, 1132.

Poor Law Reform Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 30*, 861.

School Building Grants, Decision as to, *Oct. 31*, 1128.

Soudan—Evacuation of Bahr-el-Ghazal by Congolese Troops, *Oct. 31*, 1102.

**Lord Advocate for Scotland**
*Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.*

**Lord Chamberlain**
*Viscount Althorp.*

**Lord Chancellor**
*Lord Loreburn.*

**Lord Chief Justice**
*Lord Alverstone.*

**Lord Great Chamberlain**
*Marquess of Cholmondeley.*

**Lord Lieutenant of Ireland**
*Earl of Aberdeen.*

**Lord President of the Council**
*Earl of Crewe.*

**Lord Privy Seal**
*Marquess of Ripon.*

**Lord Warden of the Duchy of Cornwall**
*Earl of Ducie.*

**Loreburn, Lord**—*Lord Chancellor.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 627, 629.

**Loughrea**

District Council, Claims against, for Malicious Injury.
*Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31*, 1128.

**Lowe, Sir F. W.** [Birmingham, Edgbaston]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 289; *Oct. 25*, 434; *Oct. 29*, 748, 749.

**Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W.** [Cumberland, Penrith]
*See under* Speaker.

**Lunacy, Ireland**
Lunacy, Ireland—Report (1905-6), *Oct. 23*, 8, 40.

**Lundon, Mr. W.** [Limerick, E.]
Limerick, Fishery Board Accounts, System of auditing, *Nov. 1*, 1345.

**Lupton, Mr. A.** [Lincolnshire, Sleaford]
Gipsies, Alien, Treatment of, *Oct. 25*, 415.
Motor Fatalities—Attendance of Inspectors at Inquests proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1114.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 26*, 538, 560.
Vivisection Royal Commission, Constitution of, *Oct. 25*, 419; *Oct. 31*, 1108.

**Lynch, Mr. H. F. B.** [Yorks, W.R. Ripon]
Natal Corporation Consolidation Bill, Effect of on position of British Indians, *Oct. 25*, 409.
Persia—Anglo-Russian Agreement, proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 693.

**Lyndhurst**
Holiday Hill Keeper's Lodge, Payment of Parochial Rates on
*Q.* Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Mc Kenna, *Oct. 30*, 867.

**Lyningham-with Filgrave**
School, Decision as to
*Q.* Mr. Herbert; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 25*, 396, 397.

**Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. A.** [St. George's, Hanover Square]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 467, 468; *Oct. 29*, 736, 737, 775; *Oct. 31*, 1197.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1369–1371, 1374.

**McCalmont, Col. J.** [Antrim, E.]
Athenry, attack on Constable O'Halloran—Reason for Discharge of Arrested Persons, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1132.

**MacIver, Mr. D.** [Liverpool, Kirkdale]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 65, 82, 83, 108, 144.

**Mackarness, Mr. F. C.** [Berks., Newbury]
Africa, Portuguese East—Native Labour Recruiting Facilities afforded to Robinson Group of Mines, *Oct. 25*, 393.
Orange River Colony Constitution, Decision as to, *Oct. 25*, 393.

**Mackarness Mr. F. C.**—*cont.*
Transvaal
  Chinese Labour
    Crimes—Comparison with White and Native Population, *Nov. 1*, 1324.
    Immorality, Result of Inquiry into Charges of, *Oct. 25*, 393.

**McKenna, Mr. R.**—*Financial Secretary of the Treasury* [Monmouth, N.]
Civil Service Assistant Clerks (Abstractor Class), Pension, Calculation of Service for, *Oct. 30*, 868.
Coal Export—Continuance of Records, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1302.
Coast Protection, Proposals as to, *Oct. 31*, 1123.
Customs and Excise
  Examining Officers, Second Class, Promotion of, *Nov. 1*, 1301.
  "Vigilant," Cruiser — Duration of Voyage, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1122.
Ireland
  Phœnix Park, Dublin—Football and Hurling, Area allotted to, *Oct. 29*, 683.
  Works Board Soap Contracts, Allocation of, *Oct. 30*, 898.
Lyndhurst—Payment of Rates on Holiday Hill Keeper's Lodge, *Oct. 30*, 867.
National Gallery—Conditions of keeping Photograph Stalls in Outer Hall, *Oct. 29*, 711.
Parliamentary Debates—Practice as to reporting Speeches of Members, *Oct. 29*, 710.
Stationery and Printing, Government Department, Formation of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 892, 893.
Stirling—Decision as to feuing King's Park, etc., *Oct. 29*, 711.
Taxation Inspectors—Service of Thirty-nine Years, Gratuity given on Retirement, *Oct. 29*, 676.
Westminster County Court, Proposals as to rebuilding, *Oct. 31*, 1096.

**Maclean, Mr. D.** [Bath]
Post Office Local Guides, Publication of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 891.

**Macnamara, Dr. T. J.** [Camberwell, N.]
Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, Proposals as to, *Oct. 30*, 889.
Electric Lighting Companies—Procedure in appointing Auditors, *Oct. 30*, 865.
Military Instruction in Schools, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 426; *Oct. 29*, 706.

**MacVeagh, Mr. J.** [Down, S.]
Castlewellan and Newcastle Railway—Rates and Fares, *Oct. 23*, 52.
Deputy-Lieutenants in Ireland, *Oct. 23*, 51.
Down County Deputy-Lieutenants, Information as to, *Oct. 30*, 895.
Harbour Boards, Irish, Information as to, *Oct. 23*, 49.
Royal University—Regulations as to issue of Tickets admitting to conferring of Degrees, *Oct. 30*, 895.

**McVeigh, Mr. C.** [Donegal, E.]
Strabane Rural District Clerk, Scope of Inquiry with regard to, *Oct. 31*, 1129.

**Maddison, Mr. F.** [Burnley]
Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 681.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 221, 223; *Oct. 29*, 736.

**Madras Estates Land Bill**
Provisions of.
*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29*, 681, 682.

**Maesteg**
Non-unionists thrown into a River—Result of Investigation into Charge.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Sir J. Walton, *Oct. 30*, 891, 892.

**Magistrates**
Appointment of
County Magistrates, Alteration in Procedure as to, proposed.
*Q.* Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Nov. 1*, 1347.
Lords-Lieutenant, Dispensing with Services of, proposed.
*Qs.* Mr. Henry; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25*, 430.
Procedure for.
*Qs.* Mr. Brace; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25*, 430.
Political Opinions—Proportion of Unionists, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Nield; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 23*, 54.

**Magnus, Sir P.** [London University]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 222–225; *Oct. 29*, 743–745.

**Maidstone**
Prison Outbreak, Cause of
*Q.* Mr. Talbot; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Nov. 1*, 1302.

**Maidstone**—*cont.*
Prison Outbreak—*cont.*
Sentences awarded to Mutinous Convicts.
*Qs.* Mr. Myer, Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1110, 1111.

**Mall to Charing Cross Improvement**
Houses at Charing Cross end, Proposals as to Removal of.
*Qs.* Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 25*, 427; *Nov. 1*, 1338.

**Malta**
Protestant Mission Services in Theatre Royal—Despatch Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 41.
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Manchester**
Stamping Office, Cost of—Staff employed, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Nov. 2*, 1445.

**Margate**
Post Office, Late Fee Posting, Arrangements for.
*Q.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29*, 708.

**Markham, Mr. A. B.** [Notts., Mansfield]
Coal Mines
Explosions, Causes of and Measures taken to Prevent, *Oct. 29*, 696.
Naked Lights in, Danger of using—Mention made in Inspectors' Reports, etc., *Oct. 29*, 696.
Maidstone Prison Disturbance—Sentences on Mutinous Convicts, *Oct. 31*, 1111.
Motors
Omnibuses—Danger arising from Side-slip, *Oct. 25*, 413.
Prosecutions—Discretionary Powers of Police, *Oct. 31*, 1104.
Speed Reduction, Local Authorities applying for, *Oct. 25*, 422.
Traction Engine Traffic.
Annoyance caused by—Procedure as to Prosecution, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1103, 1104.
Night Traffic, Police Powers preventing Nuisance from, *Oct. 25*, 418.
Traffic, Police Powers of Regulation of, *Oct. 25*, 417, 418.
Parliament Square—Reason for Flowers dying, *Oct. 29*, 672.
South African War Stores, Inquiry into Supply of—Proceedings against Contractors, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 405.
Transvaal—White and Kaffir Labour—Effect of Employment of Chinese, *Oct. 31*, 1101.

**Marks, Mr. H. H.** [Kent, Thanet]
  Burwell Estate
    Conditions of Letting, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1123, 1124.
    Labourers dispossessed, etc., *Oct. 29*, 709, 710.
  China—Administration of Imperial Maritime Customs, *Oct. 25*, 411.
  Hutton—Expenditure on Poplar Poor Law Schools, *Oct. 29*, 701.
  Margate Post Office, Late Fee Posting, Arrangements for, *Oct. 29*, 708.
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2 Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 145.
  Military Training in Schools, Decision as to, *Oct. 29*, 707.
  "Pass of Killiecrankie"—Allegations as to Ill-treatment of Apprentices, etc., *Oct. 25*, 420.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 264; *Oct. 25*, 441–443; *Oct. 26*, 553, 752, 969; *Oct. 30*, 982; *Oct. 31*, 1185, 1209, 1210.
  Smithfield Market Meat Inspection System, *Oct. 25*, 422.
  Soap Trust, Weight of Packets sold by, *Oct. 25*, 413.

**Marriages**
  Scotland—Report (1904), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Masham, Lord**
  Sat First in Parliament after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 23*, 1.

**Masterman, Mr. C. F. G.** [West Ham, N.]
  Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Lobby—Sentence on Offenders, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1109.

**Matches**
  White Phosphorus, Prohibition of—Reason for refusal of British Delegates at Berne Conference to sign Treaty.
    *Qs.* Mr. Shackleton, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 417.

**Mauritius**
  Garrison, Strength of—Military Expenditure during last Five Years, etc.
    *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 29*, 685.
  Report (1905), Presented, *Oct. 30*, 814; *Oct. 31*, 1084.

**Mayo, Earl of**
  Horses
    Glanders and Pneumonia, Measures taken to eradicate, *Oct. 23*, 27.
    Importation of, into Ireland—Agriculture Department Order, Reason for exemption of Army, *Oct. 23*, 26.
  Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, 2R., *Oct. 23*, 20–22; *Com., Oct. 24*, 172, 176.

**Meat**
  Canned, *see* Canned Foodstuffs.
  Inspectors, Qualifications required of.
    *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 24*, 184.
  Inspection System, Information as to.
    *Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *As.* Mr. Burns' *Oct. 25*, 422.

**Meath, Earl of**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Oct. 29*, 595.
  Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, 2R., *Oct. 23*, 23; *Com., Oct. 24*, 174.

**Menzies, Mr. W.** [Lanark, S.]
  Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act—Position of Small Feuars and Leaseholders, *Oct. 29*, 714.
  Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 704.

**Merchant Shipping**
  [*For* particular Vessels, *see their names.*]
  Colonial Certificates of Competency—Order in Council Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.
  Freeboard, Decision as to Reducing.
    *Q.* Mr. Barker; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 31*, 1095.
  Light Dues Scale in Second Schedule of Act, Order in Council altering, Presented, *Oct. 25*, 297, 390.
  Risk Notes, Conditions of signing by Consignors.
    *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 25*, 398.

**Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill**
  *c. Con. Oct. 23*, 61.
  Debate on Consideration [*Commons*], *Oct. 23*, 61.
    Clause 3, Omission of, proposed, 108–111.
    Clause 5, Omission of, proposed, 111.
    Clause 6—Omission of Words "Under stress of Weather, or for Repairs," 112.
    Clause 9, Omission of, proposed, 112.
    Clause 11, Omission of, proposed, 112.
    Clause 51, Omission of, proposed, 151.
    English, Knowledge of, Exemption of Engineers, Firemen, Cooks or Stewards, proposed, 114–119.
    Foreign Ships overloaded in British Ports to be under same Regulations as British Ships, 67–96.
    Foreign Ships overloaded in Foreign Ports, Exemption of, proposed, 67–96.

[*cont.*

**Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill**—*cont.*
Debate on Consideration [*Com.*]—*cont.*
Government Amendments, 112, 120, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151.
India and the Crown Colonies, Extension of Provisions of Bill to, proposed, 99-108.
Legislation by Reference, Objections to, 108–111, 166.
Liability of Owner Limited to £8 per ton, Extension of Provision to Charterers to whom Ship is demised, proposed, 63–67.
Load Line for British Ships lowered under the Bill, alleged, 86.
New Clauses, Procedure as to discussing, 61, 62.
Passengers not to be carried on any Deck below a Deck on which Cattle are carried, proposed, 120–124.
Provisions
Dietary for Seamen other than European, granting discretion as to, proposed, 133–137.
Failure of Master to provide suitable Provisions, Penalty for, proposed, 131–133.
Inspection of, making compulsory, proposed, 137–140.
Seamen sailing from Foreign Ports, Class of Food supplied to, Power of Inspection, etc., 140–143.
Wilful waste or destruction of Provisions by Seamen, Penalty for, proposed, 127–130.
Space for Storage of Provisions or Water to be deducted from Gross Tonnage, Objections to Provision, 151–168.

**Mersey Docks and Harbour Board**
Accounts (1905–6), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 18, 49.

**Metropolitan District Railway**
*See under* Railways—Electric.

**Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill**
*l.* 2R.* *Oct. 24*, 169.

**Mexico**
Budget (1906–7), Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.
Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 31*, 1009.

**Meysey-Thomson, Mr. E. C.** [Stafford, Handsworth]
Gipsies, Alien, Expulsion of, proposed, *Oct. 25*, 414.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 31*, 1176–1178.

**Mildmay, Mr. F. B.** [Devon, Totnes]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 26*, 538.
Plymouth Fisherman—Damage done to Nets by French Trawlers, *Oct. 29*, 684.

**Military Instruction in Schools**
Conditions of sanctioning in Elementary Schools and System of supplying Rifles, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. J. Ward, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Rees, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker, *Oct. 25*, 425–427.
Applications made during late Administration.
*Q.* Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 30*, 888.
Decision as to.
*Qs.* Mr. J. Ward, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 30*, 888.
Education Board sanction to
*Qs.* Mr. Maddison; Mr. H. J. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 29*, 681.
*Qs.* Mr. Menzies, Mr. Snowden, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. Paul, Mr. Rowlands, Dr. Macnamara, Sir H. Vincent, Mr. H. H. Marks, Mr. Cremer; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 29*, 704–707.

**Militia**
Foreign Service for—Date of Introducing Bill, *Oct. 30*, 862.

**Minerals**
Report and Statistics as to Output, etc., Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9,

**Mines and Quarries**
General Report and Statistics, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 37.

**Minister of Commerce and Industry**
Proposals as to Establishing.
*Qs.* Mr. D. A. Thomas, Sir J. Randles, Mr. R. Duncan; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Nov. 1*, 1347, 1348.

**Mitchell-Thomson. Mr. W.** [Lanark, N.W.]
Glasgow—Barlinnie Prison, Accommodation in, *Oct. 30*, 868.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24*, 186; *Oct. 29*, 769; *Oct. 30*, 924, 993, 994, 999; *Oct. 31*, 1142, 1144.
Scottish Agricultural Holdings below £50 Annual Value, *Oct. 25*, 429.
West Indies Mail Service, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 708.

**Mitchelstown**
Nationalist Demonstration—Use of Flag taken by Police in 1888.
*Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 858.

**Molesworth, Viscount**
- Representative Peer for Ireland, Claim to Vote as, *Oct. 23, 1*; *Oct. 25,* 293.

**Molteno, Mr. P. A.** [Dumfriesshire]
- Motor Accidents—Legislative Proposals for Public Safety, *Oct. 25,* 423.
- Orange River Colony Juries—Allegations as to racial Bias, etc., *Oct. 25,* 409.

**Money Orders**
- *See under* Post Office.

**Mooney, Mr. J. J.** [Newry]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 29,* 738.
- Telegraph Offices at Irish Tidal Ports, Hours of Business of, *Oct. 29,* 717, 718.

**Morley, Rt. Hon. J.**—*Secretary of State for India* [Montrose Burghs]
- Army
  - Commissions — Distributing among Officers serving with British Units, proposed, *Oct. 25,* 399.
  - Moplah Battalions, use of, on North-West Frontier Defence, *Oct. 29,* 687.
  - Poona—Accommodation for Married Officers, *Oct. 31,* 1098.
- Bengal
  - Chowkidari Tax, Remission of, proposed, *Nov. 1,* 1306.
  - Fuller, Sir J. B., Tabling Papers as to Resignation of, proposed, *Oct. 29,* 689.
  - Partition
    - Agitation against —Tabling Papers proposed, *Oct. 29,* 689.
    - Musalman Deputation to Viceroy, Views of Members of, *Oct. 31,* 1088.
    - Parliamentary Discussion proposed, *Nov. 1,* 1318, 1319.
  - Tenancy Act, Surveys made under, *Oct. 31,* 1087.
- Bombay—Mecca Pilgrims, Removal of Quarantine Restrictions on, *Oct. 30,* 871.
- Burma—Police Grievances, Removal of, *Oct. 29,* 671.
- Cherra State, Decision as to Siem of, *Oct. 29,* 688.
- Chumbi Road, proposals for Improvement of, *Oct. 29,* 682.
- East Indian Company Officials, Promotion, etc., of, *Oct. 30,* 871.
- Ganges Bridge at Godagiri, Decision as to, *Nov. 1,* 1316.
- Madras—Police Official from Burma, reason for Employment of, *Oct. 29,* 671.
- Madras Estates Land Bill, Provision of, *Oct. 29,* 682.
- Memorials, Regulations as to Presentation of, *Oct. 29,* 687.

**Morley, Rt. Hon. J.**—*cont.*
- Persia—Tabling Mr. Newcomen's Report, proposed, *Nov. 1,* 1306.
- Opium Traffic, Chinese proposals for restricting, *Oct. 29,* 689.
- Sara Bridge Project, Reason for Postponement of, *Oct. 29,* 670.
- Telegraphic Rate, proposals for reducing, *Oct. 31,* 1097.
- Tibet—Papers, proposals as to Tabling, *Nov. 1,* 1318.

**Morocco**
- Algeciras Act, Accession of Sultan to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 31,* 1102.
- Arzila—Measures for Protection of British Subjects.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30,* 881.
- Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23,* 5.

**Morrell, Mr. P.** [Oxon, Henley]
- Army—Case of Henry Drake, Cowley Barracks Engineman, *Oct. 25,* 407.

**Morton, Mr. A. C.** [Sutherland]
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 166, 167, 168.
- Stirling—Decision as to Feuing King's Park, *Oct. 29,* 711.

**Motors**
- Accidents
  - Metropolitan Statistics for September.
    - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31,* 1093, 1094.
  - Prevention of—Legislative proposals for Public Safety.
    - *Q.* Mr. Molteno; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 25,* 423.
- Excessive Speed on Public thoroughfares, Penalty for.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Weir, Mr. Lupton; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 31,* 1113, 1114.
- Omnibuses, Side-slip, Accidents due to and proposals for preventing.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31,* 1105.
  - Danger arising from—withdrawal of Licences proposed
    - *Qs.* Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25,* 413.
- Police Regulation of Traffic—Terms of Commissioner's Letter of July 13, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25,* 417, 418.
- Prosecutions, Discretionary Powers of Police.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31,* 1104, 1105.
- Speed Reduction, Local Authorities Applying for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 25,* 422, 423.

[*cont.*

**Motors**—*cont.*

Traction Engine Traffic

Annoyance Caused by—Procedure in Prosecutions, etc.

*Qs.* Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31*, 1103, 1104.

Night Traffic, Police Powers of Preventing Nuisance caused by.

*Q.* Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 418.

Scotland, Revision of Regulations in, proposed.

*Q.* Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Nov. 1*, 1343.

**Moyode**

Untenanted Land, proposals for Purchase of.

*Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 1*, 1346.

**Murphy, Mr. J.** [Kerry, E.]

Corry No. 2 Schools, Brother and Sister as Manager and Teacher of, *Oct. 30*, 859.

Education

National School Teachers

Assistant—Attendance Required for Appointment, *Nov. 2*, 1446.

Promotion, Conditions of Recommending, *Nov. 2*, 1450.

Primary System, proposals for Improving, *Oct. 30*, 860; *Oct. 31*, 1131.

Land Commission—Fair Rent Appeals Awaiting Hearing, *Oct. 30*, 896.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1405.

**Myer, Mr. H.** [Lambeth, N.]

Maidstone Prison Disturbance—Sentences on Mutinous Convicts, *Oct. 31*, 1110.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 26*, 560.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1457.

**Nannetti, Mr. J. P.** [Dublin, College Green]

Constabulary Fund, Information as to, *Oct. 31*, 1090.

Queenstown Mail Trains to Dublin—Regulations as to Carrying Passengers, *Nov. 1*, 1297.

Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1403, 1404.

**Natal**

British Indian Rights as to Municipal Franchise.

*Q.* Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25*, 409.

*Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 26*, 517.

Corporation Consolidation Bill, Effect of on Position of British Indians, etc.

*Qs.* Mr. H. Cox, Mr. Byles; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1320.

Fugitive Offenders Act—Order in Council Presented, *Oct. 30*, 815, 857.

**National Debt**

Terminable Annuities—Treasury Warrant Cancelling Surplus Consols, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 17, 45.

**National Gallery**

Photograph Stalls, Conditions of keeping in Outer Hall.

*Qs.* Mr. Chiozza-Money; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 29*, 711.

**National Expenditure**

*See under* Revenue and Expenditure.

**National School Teachers, Ireland**

*See under* Education—Ireland.

**Navy**

*First Lord*—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.

*Financial Secretary*—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.

Dockyards

Additional Wages, Particulars of Division of

*Q.* Sir J. Baker; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 29*, 684.

*Q.* Mr. Jenkins; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1*, 1313.

"Dreadnought"

Docks Capable of Accommodating.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 23*, 52.

Time Spent in Portsmouth Dock.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 30*, 867.

"Duncan," Cost of Repairs to.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 30*, 873, 874.

Home Fleet, Battleships added to.

*Q.* Mr. Ridsdale; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 31*, 1098.

Manœuvres, Merchant Vessels taking part in.

*Q.* Mr. Beauchamp; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1*, 1311.

"Montagu."

Disposal of

*Q.* Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1*, 1312.

Replacing, Proposals as to.

*Q.* Mr. A. Chamberlain; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25*, 402, 403.

*Q.* Mr. D. Pease; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1*, 1305.

Obsolete Vessels, Names, etc., Information as to.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 24*, 179, 180.

Officers

Debts, Liability of Half and Retired Pay for—Interpretation of proposed Order in Council.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 25*, 401.

Signal Lieutenants, Extra Pay of.

*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 31*, 1095.

[*cont.*

**Navy**—*cont.*

"Philomel" Expenditure on — Date of placing on Ineffective List, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1,* 1297.

Reduction, Proposals as to.
*Qs.* Mr. P. Pease, Viscount Turnour; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1,* 1313.

Repairs required at Present Time, Information as to.
*Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1,* 1312.

Rosyth, Decision as to.
*Q.* Maj. Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 25,* 394.

Savings Banks Regulations—Order in Council approving, Presented, *Oct. 30,* 815, 857.

Shipbuilding

Date of laying down Ship at Pembroke.
*Qs.* Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 30,* 874.

Designs—Criticism, Decision as to facilitating.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1,* 1311, 1312.

Hulls of "Suffolk" and "Essex," Cost of.
*Q.* Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 31,* 1086.

Statement of Policy, Proposals as to making.
*Qs.* Mr. S. Roberts, Mr. A. Chamberlain; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25.* 402, 403.

Submarines, Lifting Apparatus, Provision of, at Naval Station.
*Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 31,* 1085.

**Nettleton, Mr., Case of**

Treatment and Diet in Prison, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31,* 1111, 1112.

**New Hebrides**

Convention between France and United Kingdom.

Australian and New Zealand concurrence, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31,* 1099, 1100.

Tabling, together with Correspondence proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Nov. 1,* 1327.

**Newfoundland**

Fisheries — Agreement between United Kingdom and United States—Adherence to Newfoundland Government, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25,* 408, 409.
*Qs.* Sir J. Randles, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29.* 690, 691.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley, Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 30,* 877, 878.

Correspondence, Proposals as to Tabling.
*Qs.* Mr. Ashley, Lord R. Cecil, *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 30,* 878.

Naval Reserve Cruise, Proposals as to.
*Q.* Mr. H. Beach; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Nov. 1,* 1312.

Papers regarding, Proposals as to laying
*Q.* Mr. A. J. Balfour; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 23,* 55.

**Newnes, Sir G.** [Swansea Town]

Swansea Post Office Inspection by House of Commons Committee—Refusal of Permission to Members of Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association to accompany Committee, *Oct. 29,* 707.

**Newton, Lord**

Peers sitting and voting during Session without having taken the Oath—Question of Privilege, *Nov. 1,* 1291.

**Nicaragua**

Parcels Post Agreement with United Kingdom, Presented, *Oct. 31,* 1084.

Treaties with United Kingdom, Presented, *Oct. 23,* 7, 36.

**Nicholls, Mr. G.** [Northants, N.]

De Ramsey, Lord, Estates of—Allotment-holders served with Notices to Quit, etc., *Oct. 29,* 699.

**Nield, Mr. H.** [Middlesex, Ealing]

Colonies of—Coolie Labour Return, Date of Presenting, *Oct. 29,* 673; *Nov. 1,* 1323.

Magistrates, Political Opinions of—Effect on Administration of Justice, etc., *Oct. 23,* 54.

Navy—"Montagu," Disposal of, *Nov. 1,* 1312.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 25,* 465, 466; *Oct. 30,* 910, 912, 914, 916; *Oct. 31,* 1183–1185, 1219.

**Nigeria**

Railway Extension, Proposals as to.
*Qs.* Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31,* 1100.

[*cont.*

**Nigeria**—*cont.*

South Nigeria Proclamation No. 15 (1903), Provisions of as to Compulsory Labour. *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Wason, Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1,* 1326.

**Norfolk, Duke of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29,* 595; *Oct. 30,* 824, 850.

**North Seas Fishery Investigation**

Papers relating to International Council Order of June 25th discharged, *Oct. 29,* 586.

Report of British Delegates at Amsterdam Meeting, Presented, *Oct. 23,* 8, 42.

**Northampton, Marquess of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29,* 644–647, 655, 657.

**O'Connor, Mr. Jas.** [Wicklow, W.]

Athenry Post Office, Leave Regulations in, *Oct. 26,* 520.

Belfast Military Canteen, Supply of Beer and Groceries to, *Oct. 30,* 872.

Postmen, Cyclist, in London, Duties of, *Oct. 31,* 1086.

**O'Donnell, Mr. C. J.** [Newington, Walworth]

Bengal, Partition of—Views of Members of Musalman Deputation to Viceroy, *Oct. 31,* 1088.

**O'Grady, Mr. J.** [Leeds, E.]

Birmingham School of Art—Outside Work Undertaken by Teacher of Modelling, *Oct. 30,* 886, 887.

Corporal Punishment in Schools and Keeping of Punishment Book, Regulations as to, *Oct. 31,* 1117.

Government Department Contracts

- Fair Wages Clause, Observance of, *Oct. 31,* 1086.
- Waygood & Co., Messrs., Wages paid by, *Oct. 31,* 1087.

India

- Cherra State, Decision as to Siem of, *Oct. 29,* 688.
- Memorials, Regulations as to Presentation of, *Oct 29,* 687.

Vivisection Royal Commission, Constitution of, *Oct. 25,* 419.

**O'Kelly, Mr. J.** [Roscommon, N.]

Arigna, Railway Extension to, proposed, *Oct. 30,* 859.

**O'Malley, Mr. W.** [Galway, Connemara]

Athenry Cattle-maiming Cases, *Oct. 31,* 1128.

National School Teachers Promotion System, *Oct. 31,* 1091,

**O'Malley, Mr. W.**—*cont.*

Potato Crop, Fears as to Failure of and Preparations to Avert Distress, *Oct. 25,* 429.

**Onslow, Earl of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31,* 1016, 1019.

Offices in Gift of Black Rod, Report of Committee as to, *Oct. 23,* 25.

**Opium Traffic**

Chinese Proposals for Restricting, etc. *Q.* Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Oct. 29,* 688, 689.

**Orange River Colony**

Constitution, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25,* 393.

Juries—Allegations as to Racial Bias, etc. *Q.* Mr. Molteno; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25,* 409.

**Ordnance Survey**

Irish Maps, Place of Printing of. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Oct. 29,* 675, 676.

**Overtoun, Lord**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30,* 821.

**Oxford, Bishop of**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 1,* 1277, 1279, 1282.

**Oxford University**

Statutes of Certain Colleges Presented, *Oct. 23,* 17, 18, 43, 44.

**Parcel Post**

*See under* Post Office.

**Parker, Mr. J.** [Halifax]

Halifax Post Office.

- Telegraphists, Sorting Duty Performed by, *Oct. 29,* 669.
- Telephone Operators, Alleged Overcrowding of, *Oct. 29,* 669.

**Parker, Sir G.** [Gravesend]

Consuls, Vice—Replacing Foreigners by British Subjects, *Oct. 30,* 880, 881.

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *con.*, *Oct. 23,* 111, 113.

Military Training in Schools—Rifle Shooting, Decision as to, *Oct. 30,* 888.

New Hebrides Convention, Tabling Papers as to, proposed, *Oct. 31,* 1100.

Transvaal — White Labour, Unemployment, Cause of, *Oct. 31,* 1101.

**Parkhurst**

Criminal Lunatic Asylum—Rules Presented, *Oct. 30,* 815, 857,

**Parliament**

House of Commons

Construction—Alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations.
*Os.* Mr. W. Rutherford, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Harcourt, Lord Turnour, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. C. Hay, *Oct. 23*, 56–58.

Discussion, Opportunity for.
*Qs.* Mr. W. Rutherford; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25*, 431, 432.

House of Lords

New Peer—Bishop of Exeter, *Oct. 23*, 1.

Offices—Report from Select Committee, Consideration of.
*Os.* Earl of Onslow, *Oct. 23*, 25.

Peers Sitting and Voting during Session without having taken the Oath—Question of Privilege.
*Os.* Lord Newton, *Nov. 1*, 1291; Marquess of Ripon, 1292, 1293; Earl of Halsbury, Lord Grimthorpe, 1293.

Representative Peer for Ireland—Claim of Viscount Molesworth, *Oct. 23*, 1; *Oct. 25*, 293.

Sat first

Bridport, Viscount, after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 25*, 293.

Masham, Lord, after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 23*, 1.

Rutland, Duke of, after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 23*, 1.

Sittings to be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, except for Judicial Business—*Motion* [Marquess of Ripon], *Oct. 23*, 24.

Took the Oath—Earl Ashburnham *Oct. 25*, 293.

**Parliament Square**

Flowers near Canning's Statue, Reason for withering of.
*Q.* Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 29*, 672.

**"Parliamentary Debates"**

Speeches of Members, Practice as to Reporting—Method adopted as to Speeches in House of Lords.
*Q.* Mr. Hazleton; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 29*, 710.

**Parliamentary Elections**

New Members Sworn.

Evans, S. T., for County of Glamorgan (Mid Division), *Oct. 23*, 61.

Hemmerde, E. G., for County of Denbigh (Eastern Division), *Oct. 23*, 61.

Randles, Sir J. S., for Cumberland (Cockermouth), *Oct. 24*, 186.

New Writs issued.

Galway, Borough of, *Oct. 24*, 177.

Glamorgan, County of (Mid-Division), *Oct. 23*, 61.

**Parliamentary Procedure**

Chairman's Rulings, *see* Chairman.

Dinner Hour, Interval for, proposed.
*Qs.* Colonel Lockwood; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 30*, 899.

Divisions.

Doors not Locked during, Loss of Time due to.
*Os.* Sir A. Acland-Hood, Mr. Chairman, *Oct. 24*, 287.

Member's Name not recorded by Tellers, Question of adding to the List.
*Os.* Sir F. Banbury, *Oct. 25*, 501; Mr. Chairman, 502.

Speaker's Rulings, *see* Speaker.

Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege.
*Os.* Lord Turnour, *Oct. 23*, 57, 58; Mr. Speaker, 57, 58; Mr. W. Rutherford, 57; Mr. C. Hay, 58; Mr. S. Wilson, Mr. Shackleton, Sir E. Carson, Mr. Chairman, *Oct. 24*, 187, 188.

**"Pass of Killiecrankie"**

Apprentices, Allegations as to Ill-treatment of, etc.—Decision as to Action of Board of Trade, etc.
*Q.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 25*, 420.

**Paul, Mr. H. W.** [Northampton]

Convocation, Purpose of Meeting of, etc., *Oct. 23*, 54.

Military Training in Schools, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 706.

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 198, 216–219; *Oct. 25*, 507, 508.

Religious Instruction—West Riding Appeal Case, Result of, *Oct. 25*, 423.

Trade and Commerce, Information received from Consuls, *Oct. 30*, 867.

**Pearce, Mr. R.** [Staffordshire, Leek]

Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 492.

**Pearson, Mr. W. H. M.** [Suffolk, Eye]
- Saxmundham Water Scheme—Result of Inquiry, *Oct. 29*, 677.

**Pease, Mr. H. P.** [Darlington]
- Navy.
  - "Montagu," Proposals as to Replacing, *Nov. 1*, 1305.
  - Reduction, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1313.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 31*, 1173–1175

**Penal Servitude Acts**
- Conditional Licences Granted, *Oct. 23*, 16, 48.

**Percy, Earl** [Kensington, S.]
- Assam and Eastern Bengal—Tabling Papers as to Resignation of Sir J. B. Fuller, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 689.

**Persia**
- Anglo-Russian Agreement, Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 29*, 693.
- Newcomen's, Mr., Report, Tabling of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Nov. 1*, 1305, 1306.
- Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5; *Oct. 25*, 297.

**Peterhead Harbour**
- Works—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 42.

**Philipps, Lt. Col. I.** [Southampton]
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23*, 149.

**Pickersgill, Mr. E. H.** [Bethnal Green, S.W.]
- Education—Punishment Book, Keeping of, *Oct. 31*, 1117.
- Feeble-minded, Care and Control of—Date of Presenting Royal Commission Report, *Nov. 1*, 1348.
- London Restaurants—Regulations as to Extension of Closing time, *Oct. 31*, 1113.
- Post Office Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Service of, *Oct. 23*, 53.
- Unemployed Distress Committees to whom Circular No. 1 was sent, *Oct. 29*, 677.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour — Complaints, Procedure in making, *Oct. 31*, 1101.
  - White Labour—Unemployed Statistics, *Oct. 31*, 1101.

**Piers and Harbours**
- *For* Particular Places *see their names.*
- Irish Harbour Boards, Information as to
  - *Q.* Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 23*, 49, 50.

**Pirie, Mr. D. V.** [Aberdeen, N.]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 30*, 994, 1000.

**Pleuro-Pneumonia**
- Measures taken to Eradicate.
  - *Os.* Earl of Mayo, *Oct. 23*, 27.

**Plural Voting Bill**
- *Com., Oct. 24*, 186; *Oct. 25*, 432; *Oct. 29*, 720; *Oct. 30*, 900; *Oct. 31*, 1139.
- *Rep.* Oct. 31*, 1220.
- Debates Committee [Commons] *Oct. 24*, 186; *Oct. 25*, 432; *Oct. 31*, 521; *Oct. 29*, 720; *Oct. 30*, 900; *Oct. 31*, 1139.
  - Allowing a Voter to Vote "Where he is Registered as a Voter in Respect of his Abode" proposed, 488–498.
  - Amendments proposed by the Opposition all of a Destructive Nature, alleged 236, 237, 239.
  - Attempts to Prevent a Registered Elector from Voting by Threats of Proceedings under the Act, Penalties for, 970–976.
  - By-elections, Procedure as to, 262–270.
  - Cancelling of notice once given, Difficulty of, 477.
  - Case of Man suddenly acquiring a New Qualification, 751–753.
  - Certificate of Name, Address, and Qualification of Voter, to be Supplied on Demand, proposed, 1195.
  - City of London Constituency, Position of, 986, 987.
  - Civil Rights, Loss of not to be Entailed by Man asking for Voting Paper without Intention of Voting Twice, proposed, 557–562, 926–930
  - Class Legislation, Objections to, 432.
  - Clause 1
    - Insertion of words "and with the Intention of Voting in more than one Constituency." after the word "Knowingly," proposed, 521–525.
    - Limiting Operation of, to Qualification in Respect to Ownership, proposed, 187, 191.
    - Page 1, Line 20, Insertion of words, "on or" after word "Constituency" 749.
    - Page 1, line 23, Omission from word "Register" to word "and," and insertion of words "With the word selected opposite such name," 766.
    - Page 1, line 24, Insertion of words "List of Voters," proposed, 765.
    - "Personation," Omission of Word and Insertion of Words "an Offence," proposed, 526–544.

[*cont.*

**Plural Voting Bill**—*cont.*
- Debates Committee [Commons]—*cont.*
  - Clause 1—*cont.*
    - Section 2—Machinery of, Necessity for Explanation, 574–580.
    - Sub-section (3), Omission of, proposed, 926–929.
  - Clause 2
    - In page 2, line 15, to insert the Word "if" and leave out the Word "unless," 959, 960.
    - Sub-section 1—Omission of all Words after Word "Vote" on line 16, proposed, 957-959.
    - Sub-section (2)—Omission of Words "Section 81 of" proposed, 968, 969.
  - "Constituency," Definition of the Word, 987, 988.
  - Constitutional Aspect of the Question, 432, 433.
  - County Clerk, Necessity for Definition of Duties of, 476, 477, 479.
  - Date for Selection, Postponement of till September 5th, proposed, 750, 751.
  - Elector having selected his Constituency and being objected to, Question as to right to vote in another Constituency, 257–261, 452, 453, 456.
  - Elector registered and voting in more than one Constituency, Penalties for, 274–282, 459, 470, 521–525, 529, 533, 534, 535, 537–544.
  - Electoral and Registration Work rendered more complex by the Bill, 442, 443, 524, 576, 577, 911, 912.
  - Enrolment of Voter in more than one Constituency by Reason of a Claim having been proved before a Revising Barrister, allowing selection to be made within seven days after such Proof has been made, proposed, 774–776.
  - Existing Votes with Plural Qualifications to be exempted, proposed, 1173–1180.
  - Government Amendments, Date of bringing up, 260.
  - Inspection of Registers before final printing, Public Notice as to, to be given, proposed, 914–918.
  - Ireland, Application of the Bill to, 968, 969.
  - Legislation by Reference, Objections to, 935–940, 1164.
  - Liability of Voter to lose all votes under the Bill, 451, 457, 460, 461, 463, 469, 483, 488, 531, 537, 540, 912.
  - Lodger Voters, Position of, 453, 454, 455, 458.

**Plural Voting Bill**—*cont.*
- Debates Committee [Commons]—*cont.*
  - Marking of Register to be done in open Court, proposed, 753–760.
  - Measure introduced to Safeguard Liberal Party at Elections, alleged, 530, 531, 537.
  - Minister in Charge of the Bill, Absence of, 483–488.
  - Name of Person put on Register for the First Time, notice to be served on such Person, proposed, 1213, 1215.
  - Name removed from the Register, Clerk to send Notice of, proposed, 776, 777, 900–904.
  - "No person registered as an Elector in any Constituency but debarred by Section 1 of this Act from voting in that Constituency shall be held to be an Elector in that Election and Constituency within the meaning of Corrupt Practices Act," proposed, 1196–1206.
    - Limiting Words referring to Clause 7, Explanation of, 1209-1211.
  - No Proceedings to be taken under the Act except on the fiat of the Attorney - General, proposed, 1185–1187.
  - Notice to be given by Voter as to which Constituency he means to Vote for, Procedure as to, 251, 262, 575–579.
    - Acknowledgment of Receipt of, to be sent by Town or County Council Clerk, proposed, 763, 764.
    - Case where Notice had been sent, but had not reached the Clerk, allowing Voter to vote, proposed, 960–962.
    - Delivery of Form prescribed by Order in lieu of personal presentation, proposed, 720–722.
    - Elector to send or cause to be sent Notice of his selection, proposed, 722–726.
    - List of other Constituencies in which Person is registered and Form of Renunciation of Rights, to be forwarded, 726–733.
    - Order in Council to prescribe a Form, Use of optional, 977, 978.
    - Person to whom Notice should be sent, Definition of, 746–748.
    - Sending by Post in Form set out in Schedule, proposed, 733–735.

**Plural Voting Bill**—*cont.*
  Debates Committee [Commons]—*cont.*
    Notice to be given by Voter—*cont.*
      Signing of, Provision as to, 735–740.
      Terms of Notice to be in a Statutory Form, proposed, 726, 727.
      Withdrawal of by Voter himself, or by an Agent authorised by him in writing, on a Prescribed Form, 921–926.
    Notice to be sent to every Elector on the Register whose Residence is not in the Constituency for which he is qualified, etc., 910–914.
    Obliging a man to vote in the Constituency in which he Resides, proposed, 475–483, 488–498.
    Officer Responsible for Printing of Register, to send Copy to Local Government Board, for Comparison and Marking, etc., proposed, 1215–1217.
    One Man, one Vote the only Fair Principle, 244, 245, 256.
    Order in Council, Tabling—Adjournment of Debate to admit of, proposed, 261, 262, 574, 575, 979–982.
    Penalties for Wilful Neglect by Clerks to carry out the Act, proposed, 1193–1195.
    Penalties only to be enforced where a Person acts knowingly and corruptly, proposed, 504–508, 969-970.
    Person having selected a Constituency and becoming Disqualified subsequently, allowing right to select another Constituency, proposed, 769–771.
    Person not having selected a Constituency, Position of, 280, 281, 528.
    Person to select Constituency in which he would vote, Definition of, 257–261.
    Personation
      Agents counselling Electors to vote double, liability of, 542–544.
      Certificate of Indemnification where it is proved that no Crime was intended proposed, 565–570.
      Definition of and Penalties for, 274–282, 459, 470, 521–525, 529, 533–535, 537–544, 552, 553.
      Fine not Exceeding £100 and Deprivation of Civil Rights for period of Five Years, proposed, 935–940.

**Plural Voting Bill**—*cont.*
  Debates Committee [Commons]—*cont.*
    Personation—*cont.*
      Fine of 40s. instead of Deprivation of Civil Rights for five Years, proposed, 930–932.
      Presiding Officer not to give into Custody any person charged with Personation unless such person has actually voted, proposed, 965–968.
      Remission or Limitation of Penalties, Powers as to, 551–554, 559–562, 568–570.
      Voiding of an Election as a result of Conviction, Question as to, 560.
    Place of Residence and place of Business, Allowing Vote for each, proposed, 146–148.
    Possibility of Voter not knowing when he was qualified in certain Constituencies, 453–462.
    Postponing Date of coming into Operation till 1917, proposed, 287, 288, 290–292, 432–438.
    Postponing Date of coming into Operation till "Such later date as His Majesty in Council may determine," proposed, 441–445.
    Power to Vote in separate Counties, or separate Ridings of same County, Granting, proposed, 193–198.
    Redistribution, Necessity for Dealing with question of, 433–438, 444.
    Register of Voters, Nature of, 253.
    Schedule
      Page 4, line 3, after word "You," to insert words "To your knowledge," 1219.
      Page 4, line 6, after 1861 to insert words "and the Universities Election Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881," proposed, 1219, 1220
      Page 4, line 8, after word "not" to insert words "to my knowledge," 1220.
    Scotland
      Alteration or modification of Acts of Parliament by Secretary for Scotland, Objections to, 1159–1163.
      Application of the Bill to, 968, 969.
      Legislation by Minutes, or Orders in Council, Objections to 1164, 1166, 1167,
      Operation of the Act in, Question of altering Currency of Scottish Parliamentary Register, 991–1004, 1142.

[*cont.*

**Plural Voting Bill**—*cont.*
Debates Committee [Commons]—*cont.*
Scotland—*cont.*
Procedure in, 1140–1144, 1164, 1165–1170.
Qualification of Person exercising his option in Favour of, not to take effect till 1st Jan., proposed, 1139–1144.
"Sheriff" Clerk to have charge of Printing of Register, proposed, 1153, 1154.
Scrutiny or proceedings under an Election Petition no offence to give ground for, proposed, 570–574.
Technical or other Mistake made by Clerk or Printer, to be rectified by Judge of the High Court on application of the party affected,
University Representation, proposed, 907–910.
Abolition of by the Bill, alleged, 204–228.
Allowing to Members in Addition to Local Vote, proposed, 201–228.
Elector exercising not to be debarred from Voting in a Constituency in which he has direct interests, 233–248.
Notice to be sent to Clerk of Convocation, proposed, 743–745.
Votor to Select his Constituency and only Vote in Trial Constituency during the Year proposed, 449–470.
Withdrawal of Selection on giving Notice to Clerk on or before 31st August, proposed, 1187–1190.
Women, Question of Votes for, 288, 289.
Working Class Plural Voters, 462, 465, 468, 531, 536.

**Plymouth**
Fishermen—Damage done to Nets by French Trawlers.
*Q.* Mr. Mildmay; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 29*, 684.

**Police**
Constabulary, Royal Irish *see that title.*
Metropolitan—Report (1905) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 11, 38.

**Polling Districts**
Alterations in—Orders Presented, *Oct. 23*, 15, 16, 47, 48.

**Poor Law**
Ireland, Commission—Date of Presenting Report.
*Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 861.
Report etc., Presented, *Oct. 23*, 12, 40.

**Poor Law**—*cont.*
Paupers Register, Number of Boards of Guardians refusing to keep, etc.
*Q.* Mr. W. Hope; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 700.

**Portmadoc, Beddgelert & South Snowdon Railway (Beddgelert Light Railway Extension)**
Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1295.

**Portsmouth, Earl of**—*Under-Secretary for War.*
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., Nov. 1*, 1234–1236.

**Portugal**
Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Post Office**
*Post-master-General*—Rt. Hon. S. Buxton.
*For* Particular Places *see their Names.*
Betting by Postal Officials, Regulations against.
*Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 25*, 421.
Clocks, Regulations as to Provision of, in Post Offices.
*Q.* Mr. Clough; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 30*, 890.
Grievances of Employees, Inquiry into—Abstractors (Assistant Clerks) inclusion of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 23*, 50.
Inland Post Amendment Warrants Presented, *Oct. 23*, 14, 46.
Local Guides, Publication of, proposed
*Q.* Mr. Maclean; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 30*, 891.
Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Service of.
*Q.* Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 23*, 53.
Medical Officers, Age Limit for Tenure of Appointments.
*Q.* Mr. A. Chamberlain; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1298.
Parcel Post
Foreign and Colonial—Warrant Presented, *Oct. 23*, 14, 46.
Nicaragua, Agreement with, Presented, *Oct. 31*, 1084.
Postage on Newspapers, etc., to Canada, Decision as to.
*Q.* Mr. E. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 30*, 890.
Postal Orders—Foreign and Colonial Regulations Presented, *Oct. 23*, 46; *Oct. 24*, 170.
Postmen, Cyclist, in London, Decision as to Duties of.
*Q.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 31*, 1086.

**Post Office**—*cont.*

Private Boxes—Effect of increased Charge.
*Q.* Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1336.

Sub-postmasters—Decision as to Annual Holiday.
*Q.* Mr. Raphael; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 31*, 1119.

**Post Office Savings Bank**

Comptroller—Date of Retirement of Mr. Laing.
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 24*, 183.

**Postmaster-General**

*Rt. Hon. S. Buxton.*

**Potatoes**

Ireland, failure of crops, fears as to, and preparations to avert distress.
*Q.* Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 25*, 429.

**Potted Meats**

*See* Canned Foodstuffs.

**Powell, Sir F. S.** [Wigan]

Trade Disputes Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 2*, 1469, 1486.

**Power, Jeremiah**

Case of, Reduction of Sentence, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Thorne; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Nov. 1*, 1328.

**President of the Board of Agriculture**

*Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.*

**President of the Board of Education**

*Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.*

**President of the Board of Trade**

*Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.*

**President of the Local Government Board**

*Rt. Hon. J. Burns.*

**Preston**

Post Office—Result of Revision.
*Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 31*, 1119.

**Prisons**

[*For paricular Prisons see names of places, etc.*]

Documents of not sufficient Value to Justify Preservation—Schedules Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222, 1296.

Employment of Prisoners, System of.
*Q.* Mr. Talbot; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Nov. 1*, 1302.

Local Prisons Used for Convicts.
*Q.* Mr. Staveley-Hill; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Nov. 1*, 1329, 1330.

Measurements, Photographs and Finger-prints of Prisoners—Additional Regulations Presented, *Oct. 25*, 297, 391.

**Prisons**—*cont.*

Report of Commissioners and Directors, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 38.

Scale of Pay, etc., of Local Prison Officials.
*Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 29*, 694.

**Public Slaughter Houses Bill**

*l. Com.*, *Oct. 23*, 20.

**Public Trustee Bill**

Proposals as to Taking
*Q.* Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 25*, 431.

**Queen's County**

Evicted Tenants—Progress made with Reinstatements, etc.
*Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 29*, 682.

**Queen Victoria Memorial**

*See under title* Mall to Charing Cross

**Queenstown**

Mail Trains to Dublin—Regulations as to Carrying Passengers
*Q.* Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1297, 1298.

**Questions**

Irrelevant, *Oct. 25*, 426; *Oct. 31*, 1127; *Nov. 1*, 1318.

Speech may not be made during time for, *Nov. 1*, 1333.

**Radford, Mr. G. H.** [Islington, E.]

Islington Board of Guardians, Interest on Bank Balance of, *Oct. 29*, 702.

**Railway and Canal Commission**

Commissioner — Proposals for Filling Vacancy
*Q.* Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Nov. 1*, 1331.

**Railways**

Accidents

General Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 38.

Returns and Reports thereon Presented, *Oct. 24*, 170, 178.

Appeals to Commissioners—Expediting and Cheapening Procedure proposed
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 25*, 397.

District Railway Fares, Inquiry into incidence of, proposed.
*Q.* Mr. Bowerman; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Nov. 1*, 1332.

Hours of Labour of Railway Servants, Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 13, 39.

Ireland—Agricultural Implements, Rates Charged on.
*Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Nov. 2*, 1449, 1450.

[*cont.*

**Railways**—*cont.*
- London & North Western Railway Company—Scheme for Pension Fund.
  - *Q.* Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 29*, 703.
- Midland Company practice of placing Untrained Men in Charge of Goods Trains.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hudson; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Nov. 1*, 1330, 1331.
- Risk Notes, Conditions of Signing by Consignors
  - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 25*, 398.
- Signalmen, Duties of—Danger of One Man being in Sole Charge of Signal Box, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Chiozza Money; *As.* Mr. Kearley, *Oct. 31*, 1120, 1121.

**Randles, Sir J.** [Cumberland, Cockermouth]
- Newfoundland Government, Acquaintance with Terms of *Modus Vivendi* with United States, etc., *Oct. 29*, 690.
- Minister of Commerce, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1348.

**Raphael, Mr. H. H.** [Derbyshire, S.]
- Postmasters, Sub-—Decision as to Annual Holiday, *Oct. 31*, 1119.

**Rawlinson, Mr. J.F.P.** [Cambridge University]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 262, 263, 291, 292; *Oct. 25*, 466, 467, 502; *Oct. 26*, 551, 554, 570, 573; *Oct. 29*, 758; *Oct. 30*, 935–937, 977.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1405, 1406, 1431–1433; *Nov. 2*, 1481–1483, 1495–1497, 1506.

**Rea, Mr. W. R.** [Scarborough]
- Coinage, Adoption of Nickel, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 693.

**Reay, Lord**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 1*, 1222–1226.

**Records, Public**
- Documents of not Sufficient Value to justify Preservation—Schedule Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1222, 1296.
- Ireland—Report of Keeper of the Records, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 40.

**Redditch**
- Post Office Medical Officer, Reason for Retirement of.
  - *Q.* Mr. A. Chamberlain; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1*, 1298.

**Redmond, Mr. J. E.** [Waterford]
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1395–1397.
- Evictions—Reinstatements effected, etc., *Oct. 23*, 53, 54; *Oct. 29*, 715, 717, 778, 802, 808.

**Redmond, Mr. W. H. K.** [Clare, E.]
- Bengal, Partition of—Parliamentary Discussion, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1317, 1318.
- Evictions—Progress made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 811.
- New Hebrides Convention—Concurrence of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1099, 1100.
- Tobacco Cultivation—Proposals for extending Area, *Nov. 1*, 1343, 1344.

**Rees, Mr. J. D.** [Montgomery Boroughs]
- Africa, Central
  - British Protectorate
    - Chiromo Game Preserve, Decision as to, *Nov. 1*, 1319.
    - Christian Schools and Churches in Native Villages, Regulations as to Erection of, *Nov. 1*, 1319.
  - Sleeping Sickness, Proposals for Study of, *Oct. 31*, 1099.
- Baghdad Railway project, Progress made with, *Nov. 1*, 1326.
- Busra—Murder of Messrs. Lynch's Agent, Sentences inflicted on Persons implicated, etc, *Oct. 30*, 862.
- China
  - Amoy—Reparation made in Case of Dr. Horne and Mr. Eadie, *Oct. 30*, 863.
  - Canton Delta, Piracy in—proposals for Protection of Commerce, *Nov. 1*, 1327.
  - Customs Edict, Effect of and Decision as to, *Nov. 1*, 1327.
  - Railways—Progress made with certain Schemes, *Oct. 30*, 863.
- India
  - Army
    - Moplah Battalions on North-West Frontier Defence, use of, *Oct. 29*, 686.
    - Pay—Effect of Recent Changes on Additional Charge of 1902, *Oct. 31*, 1088.
    - Quick-firing Guns, Progress made with supplying, *Oct. 31*, 1088.
  - Bengal
    - Partition, Agitation against—Tabling Papers, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 689.
    - Tenancy Act, Surveys made under *Oct. 31*, 1087.
  - Bombay—Removal of Quarantine Regulations as to Mecca Pilgrims, *Oct. 30*, 871.
  - Chumbi Road, Proposals for Improvement of, *Oct. 29*, 682.
  - Madras Estates Land Bill, Provisions of, *Oct. 29*, 681.
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 134.

[*cont.*

**Rees, Mr. J. D.**—*cont.*
Military Instruction in Schools, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 426.
Natal—British Indians, Municipal Voting Rights of, *Oct. 26*, 517.
Persia—Tabling Report of Mr. Newcomer, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1305.

**Reformatory and Industrial Schools**
Ireland—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 40.
Reports Presented, *Oct. 23*, 6, 37, 38.

**Regent's Park**
Fence—Reason for substituting Iron Railings.
*Q.* Sir S. Scott; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 25*, 392, 393.
*Qs.* Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 25*, 427, 428.
*Q.* Sir S. Scott; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 29*, 681.

**Rendall, Mr. A.** [Gloucester, Thornbury]
Army Nurses, Amusements permitted to, *Nov. 1*, 1315.
Staple Hill Colliery Company, Ltd.—Allegations as to Dangerous Proceedings, *Oct. 25*, 416.
Thornbury—Vaccination Exemption Case of Mr. A. Williams, *Oct. 25*, 416.

**Revenue and Expenditure**
Capital Expenditure Authorised under Certain Acts—Return Ordered, *Oct. 29*, 669.
Interception (1904–1907) Return Presented, *Oct. 23*, 45.

**Ridley, Viscount**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 599; *Oct. 30*, 847; *Oct. 31*, 1020, 1021, 1024.

**Ridsdale, Mr. E. A.** [Brighton]
Navy—Battleships added to Home Fleet, *Oct. 31*, 1098.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1464.
Vivisection Royal Commission—Precedents for Holding Sittings in Private, *Oct. 31*, 1108.

**Rifle Clubs**
War Office Assistance, Proposals as to.
*Q.* Mr. H. Beach; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30*, 874, 875.

**Ripon, Bishop of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 629–635, 641.

**Ripon, Marquess of**—*Lord Privy Seal.*
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 596, 604, 660–663; *Oct. 30*, 822–824, 845, 846, 849, 853–855; *Oct. 31*, 1019, *Nov. 1*, 1259.
West Riding Judgment, Effect of, on Conduct of the Bill, *Oct. 23*, 19.

**Ripon, Marquess of**—*cont.*
Peers Sitting and Voting during Session without having taken the Oath—Question of Privilege, *Nov. 1*, 1292, 1293.
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 176.
Sittings of the House to be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, except for Judicial Business, *Oct. 23*, 24.

**Roberts, Mr. S.** [Sheffield, Ecclesall]
Diachylon—Scheduling as Poison, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 883.
Naval Shipbuilding Policy of the Government, *Oct. 25*, 402.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 228; *Oct. 29*, 731, 738, 776; *Oct. 30*, 965–967, 970.
Trades Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1360–1363.

**Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.**—*Secretary to the Admiralty* [Dundee]
Admiralty—Soap Contracts allocated to Members of Trust, *Oct. 30*, 874.
Army Book of the British Empire—Proposals as to Issue of Revised Edition, *Oct. 24*, 186.
Coastguard Stations to be Closed in Ireland, *Oct. 26*, 518.
Dockyards—Additional Wages, Division of, *Oct. 29*, 684; *Nov. 1*, 1313.
"Dreadnought"
Docks Capable of Accommodating, *Oct. 23*, 52.
Portsmouth Dock, Time spent in, *Oct. 30*, 867.
"Duncan," Cost of Repairs to, *Oct. 30*, 874.
Greenwich Observatory—Result of Investigation as to Effect of London County Council Power Station, *Oct. 31*, 1098.
Home Fleet, Battleships added to, *Oct. 31*, 1098.
Manœuvres—Merchant Vessels taking part in, *Nov. 1*, 1311.
"Montagu"
Disposal of, *Nov. 1*, 1312.
Replacing, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1305.
Newfoundland Naval Reserve Cruise, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1312.
Obsolete Vessels, Names, etc., of, *Oct. 24*, 180.
Officers
Debts, Liability of Half and Retired Pay for—Interpretation of Order in Council, *Oct. 25*, 401.
Signal Lieutenants, Pay of, *Oct. 31*, 1095.
"Philomel," Expenditure on—Date of placing on Ineffective List, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1297.

**Robertson Rt. Hon. E.**—*cont.*
  Plymouth Fishermen—Damage done to Nets by French Trawlers, *Oct. 29*, 684.
  Reduction, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1313.
  Repairs required at Present Time, Expenditure on, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1312.
  Rosyth, Decision as to. *Oct. 25*, 394.
  Shipbuilding
    Date of Laying down Ship at Pembroke, *Oct. 30*, 874.
    Designs, Decision as to Facilitating Criticism on, *Nov. 1*, 1312.
    Hulls of "Suffolk" and "Essex," Cost of, *Oct. 31*, 1086.
    Statement of Policy, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 402, 403.
  Submarines—Lifting apparatus at Naval Stations, Provision of, *Oct. 31*, 1085.

**Robertson, Mr. J. M.** [Northumberland, Tyneside]
  Holloway Prison—Allegations as to presence of Rats, *Nov. 1*, 1329.
  Military Instruction in Schools, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25*, 426.

**Robson, Sir W. S.**—*Solicitor-General* [South Shields]
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 63, 64, 66, 67, 79, 82.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 505; *Oct. 30*, 968, 969, 972, 988; *Oct. 31*, 1220.
  Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1412.

**Ropner, Col. Sir E. H.** [Stockton]
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 73–75, 114, 115, 148.

**Rowlands, Mr. J.** [Kent, Dartford]
  Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to Teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 706.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 903.

**Runciman, Mr. W.**—*Parliamentary Secretary. Local Government Board* [Dewsbury]
  Canned Foodstuffs, American—Report of British Consul at Chicago, *Oct. 31*, 1102.
  County Court Judges—Payment of Deputies, *Oct. 23*, 50.
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 91–93.
  Morocco—Algecias Act, Accession of Sultan to, *Oct. 31*, 1102.
  Persia—Anglo-Russian Agreement, Proposals as to, *Oct. 29*, 693.
  Soudan—Bahr-el-Ghazel, Evacuation of, by Congolese Troops, *Oct. 31*, 1102.
  Spain—Reason for Expulsion of G. Bowman, *Oct. 29*, 692, 693.

**Russell, Earl**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 650–654.

**Russia**
  Duma—British Projected Deputation, Effect of, Russian Government Representations, etc.
    *Qs.* Mr. C. Hay, Mr. Byles; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Oct. 25*, 410, 411.
  Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4.

**Rutherford, Dr. V. H.** [Middlesex, Brentford]
  Bengal, Partition of—Parliamentary Discussion proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1317, 1318.

**Rutherford, Mr. W. W.** [Liverpool, W. Derby]
  House of Commons, Construction—Alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 56, 57, ; *Oct. 25*, 431.
  Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 144, 146, 147, 148.
  Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 255, 256, 260, 261, 262, ; *Oct. 25*, 436–438, 482, 483, 486; *Oct. 26*, 539–541, 560, 561, 567, 570; *Oct. 29*, 732, 746, 747, 752, 757, 777; *Oct. 30*, 904, 909, 916, 925, 926, 968, 969, 972, 982, 1001; *Oct. 31*, 1159, 1162, 1163, 1195, 1202.

**Rutland, Duke of**
  Sat First in Parliament after the Death of his Father, *Oct. 23*, 1.

**St. Albans, Bishop of**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Nov. 1*, 1254–1256.

**St. Aldwyn, Viscount**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.* *Oct. 29*, 597, 602; *Oct. 30*, 834–836, 840, 846; *Oct. 31*, 1010–1012, 1022, 1043; *Nov. 1*, 1251–1254, 1264, 1279.

**St. Asaph, Bishop of**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31*, 1042; *Nov. 1*, 1276.

**St. David's, Bishop of**
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.* *Nov. 1*, 1281.

**St. Lucia**
  Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 26*, 513, *Oct. 29*, 585.

**Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill**
  *l.* 2R. *Oct. 23*, 20.
  *Com.* and *Rep.*, *Oct. 24*, 170.
  Report from Standing Committee, *Oct. 30*, 815.
  *l.* 3R*. *Nov. 1*, 1222.

**Salisbury**
Railway Disaster—Inquiry into Case of Guard, proposed.
Q. Mr. Wardle; A. Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 29*, 703.
Q. Mr. Hudson; A. Mr. Lloyd-George, *Nov. 1*, 1330.

**Salisbury, Bishop of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 618; *Oct. 31*, 1044; *Nov. 1*, 1242, 1264, 1271.

**Salisbury, Marquess of**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.* *Oct. 29*, 599, 602, 654–660; *Oct. 31*, 1037; *Nov. 1*, 1266–1269, 1271, 1282-1284.

**Salter, Mr. C.** [Hampshire, Basingstoke]
Army
Bremner, Mr. D., Case of, *Oct. 30*, 872.
*Personnel*, Reduction of—Disbanded Regiments, Disposal of Officers, etc., *Oct. 30*, 873.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1359, 1418, 1419; *Nov. 2*, 1486–1489, 1497.

**Sassoon, Sir E. A.** [Hythe]
India, Telegraphic Rate to, Proposals for Reducing, *Oct. 31*, 1097.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31*, 1166.
Tibet Papers, Proposals as to Tabling, *Nov. 1*, 1318.

**Savings Bank**
*See under* Navy, Army, *and title* Post Office Savings Bank.

**Saxmundham**
Water Scheme—Result of Inquiry.
Q. Mr. H. Pearson; A. Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 677.

**Scotland**
*Secretary for*—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
*Lord-Advocate*—Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.
*Solicitor-General*—Mr. A. Ure.
*See also names of places*
Agricultural Holdings below £50 Annual Value, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; A. Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 25*, 429.
Education, *see* Education, Scotland.
Fisheries, *see under title* Fisheries.
Highland Crofting Counties, Agricultural Holdings in.
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 30*, 869.
Medical Inspectors, Increase of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 30*, 894.
Prisons, *see that title, also names of places.*

**Scott, Mr. A. H.** [Ashton-under-Lyne]
Vaccination Prosecutions—Stay of Further Proceedings pending Legislation, proposed, *Oct. 21*, 1096.

**Scott, Sir S. E.** [Marylebone, W.]
Government Department Messengerships, Persons appointed to, *Oct. 31*, 1133, 1134.
Regent's Park Fence—Reason for Substituting Iron Railings, *Oct. 25*, 392; *Oct. 29*, 681.
Volunteers, Training, Decision as to, *Oct. 30*, 875.

**Sears, Mr. J. E.** [Cheltenham]
Bala Income Tax Assessor, Arrangement of Duties of, *Oct. 30*, 861.
Estate Duty
Payment in 1898 in respect of Estate floated in 1900 — Certificates Granted, etc., *Oct. 29*, 670.
Revenue—Cost of Collection in England Compared with Scotland and Ireland, *Oct. 29*, 693.
Estate Duty Office Staff, reason for increase in, *Oct. 25*, 412.
Income Tax
Acts, reconsideration of, proposed, *Oct. 25*, 412.
District Commissioners, Delegation of Duties of, *Oct. 30*, 861.
Indian Army Commissions, distributing among Officers serving with British Units, proposed, *Oct. 25*, 399.
Manchester Stamping Office, Cost of, etc., *Nov. 2*, 1445.
Nettleton, Mr., Case of, *Oct 31*, 1111

**Secretary of State for the Colonies**
*Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.*

**Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**
*Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.*

**Secretary of State for the Home Department**
*Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.*

**Secretary of State for India**
*Rt. Hon. J. Morley.*

**Secretary for Scotland**
*Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.*

**Secretary of State for War**
*Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.*

**Sedgwick Gunpowder Co., Ltd.**
Explosion—Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 37.

**Seely, Major J. E. B.** [Liverpool, Abercromby]
Wireless Telegraphy International Conference—Powers of British Delegates, *Oct. 29*, 719.

**Selby Abbey**
- Destruction of, by Fire—Government Assistance towards rebuilding, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lane Fox; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Oct. 26*, 520.

**Sewers**
- Boards of Commissioners—Abolition of System proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. G. Baring; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 698.

**Seychelles**
- Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 40.

**Shackleton, Mr. D.** [Lancashire, N. E., Clitheroe]
- Matches, Prohibition of use of White Phosphorus for—Reason for Refusal of British Delegates to sign Convention at Berne, *Oct. 25*, 417.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 26*, 537.
- Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege, *Oct. 24*, 188.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1383–1386; *Nov. 2*, 1472, 1477, 1501–1504.

**Shaftesbury, Earl of**
- Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill, *Com. Oct. 24*, 174.

**Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.** —*Lord Advocate* [Hawick Burghs]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 996, 998, 1002; *Oct. 31*, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1153, 1154, 1159, 1162, 1168.

**Shoebury**
- Artillery Firing Practice on 4th June, Result of Inquiry into Circumstances of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 2*, 1451.
- Fisheries in District Purchased by War Office—Decision as to issue of Regulations, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Nov. 1*, 1316.

**Shop Hours Act**
- Orders made under, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 14, 46, 47, 49; *Oct. 25*, 297, 391; *Oct. 26*, 513; *Oct. 29*, 586, 668.

**Siam**
- Trade Report, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.**—*Secretary for Scotland* [Forfarshire]
- Agricultural Holdings below £50 Annual Value, *Oct. 25*, 429.
- Cromarty, Sanitation of—Tabling Dr. Dittmar's Report, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1118.

**Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.**—*cont.*
- Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act—Position of Small Feuars and Leaseholders, *Oct. 29*, 715.
- Glasgow—Barlinnie Prison, Accommodation in, *Oct. 30*, 869.
- Highland Crofting Counties, Agricultural Holdings in, *Oct. 30*, 869.
- Lewis, Island of.
  - Aignish Settlement, Person Responsible for Valuation of, *Oct. 31*, 1118.
  - Dittmar's Dr., Report, Tabling of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 894.
  - Sanitary Condition, Proposals for Improving, *Oct. 30*, 893.
- Medical Inspectors, Increasing Number of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 894.
- Traction Engines—Revision of Regulations proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1343.
- Trawling, Illegal—Protection of Fishing Grounds, etc., *Oct. 31*, 1119.

**Sittings of the House**
- *See under* Parliamentary Procedure.

**Sloan, Mr. T. H.** [Belfast, S.]
- Clifden—Assault on Rev. Mr. Harpur, *Nov. 1*, 1346.
- Education
  - Primary System, proposals for Improving, *Oct. 31*, 1130.
  - School Building Grants, Decision as to, *Oct. 31*, 1129.
- MacDonnell, Sir A., Position of—Correspondence, etc., Publication of, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 672.
- Taxation Inspector Retired after Service of thirty-nine years, Gratuity given to, *Oct. 29*, 676.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1400–1402.

**Smeaton, Mr. D. M.** [Stirlingshire]
- British West Africa Produce Company Ltd., Identity of Chairman of, *Nov. 1*, 1322.

**Smith, Mr. F. E.** [Liverpool, Walton]
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1364–1367, 1415–1418; *Nov. 2*, 1452, 1453, 1456, 1461–1463, 1473–1475, 1500, 1504.

**Smith, Mr. W. F. D.** [Strand, Westminster]
- Aliens—Convictions and Expulsions, Information as to, *Oct. 29*, 678.
- Australian, Imperial Preference Bill, Foreign Treaties Affected by, *Oct. 31*, 1091.
- Submarines—Provision of Lifting Apparatus at Naval Stations, *Oct. 31*, 1085.
- Westminster County Court, proposals as to Rebuilding, *Oct. 31*, 1096.

**Smithfield Market**
- Meat Inspection System—Amount of Putrid Meat Seized, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 25*, 422.

**Snowden, Mr. P.** [Blackburn]
- Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to Teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 704.
- Wakefield Schools, Fees Charged at—Case of A. Whiteley, *Nov. 1*, 1337.

**Soap Trust**
- Contracts for Admiralty, War Office and Government Departments, Allocation of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Oct. 30*, 874.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30*, 876.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 30*, 891.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 30*, 898.
- Weights of Packets sold by—Infringement of Weights and Measures Acts, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks, Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 413, 414.

**Solicitor-General**
- *Sir W. S. Robson.*

**Solicitor-General for Ireland**
- *Mr. R. Barry*

**Solicitor-General for Scotland**
- *Mr. A. Ure.*

**Soudan**
- Bahr-el-Ghazal, Evacuation of, by Congolese Troops.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 31*, 1102.

**South African War**
- Stores, Commission of Inquiry into Supply of—Decisions, Distinctions made in Punishments Awarded, etc.
  - *Qs.* Sir H. Vincent, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 25*, 403–406.

**South Kensington Technological Institute**
- Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Butcher; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 31*, 1116.

**Southampton**
- Union Area, proposals for Altering—Reason for Holding Inquiry, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 31*, 1114.

**Southwark, Bishop of**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 647–650; *Oct. 31*, 1041, 1042.

**Spain**
- Bowman, G., Reason for Expulsion of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Oct. 29*, 692, 693.

**Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, Rulings of**
- Clause of a Bill Voted against by the Mover and Seconder, Circumstances of, *Nov. 1*, 1408.
- Discussion of an Amendment which had not been Moved, was not in Order, *Nov. 1*, 1419.
- Expression "Disgraceful" applied by one Member to another was not necessarily out of Order, 1396.
- House of Commons Construction—Alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 56–58.
- Imputations on Veracity of Member were not in Order, *Nov. 1*, 1395, 1396.
- Interpolation of Speech was out of Order, *Nov. 1*, 1401.
- Irrelevant Observations, *Nov. 1*, 1404.
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, New Clauses, Procedure as to Taking, *Oct. 23*, 61, 62.
- Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege, *Oct. 23*, 57, 58.

**Stanley of Alderley, Lord**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 29*, 598, 635–642; *Oct. 30*, 827–829; *Oct. 31*, 1023; *Oct. 51*, 1041; *Nov. 1*, 1261–1264, 1275, 1279, 1286–1288.

**Stanmore, Lord**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 297, 298, 382.

**Staple Hill Colliery Company, Ltd.**
- Dangerous Proceedings of, Allegations as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rendall; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 416.

**Staveley-Hill, Mr. H.** [Staffordshire, Kingswinford]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 444; *Oct. 29*, 756; *Oct. 31*, 1193, 1194.
- Prisons, Local, used for Convicts, *Nov. 1*, 1329.

**Stationery and Printing**
- Government Printing Department, Formation of, proposed.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Chiozza Money; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 30*, 892, 893.

**Stepney**
- Poor Law Guardians, Refusal of Outrelief by, alleged.
  - *Q.* Dr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 31*, 1116.

**Stibbert Bequest**
Reasons for Refusal of.
*Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *Oct. 25,* 428.

**Stirling**
King's Park and the Knott, Decision as to Feuing for Building Purposes.
*Qs.* Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 29,* 711.

**Stoke-on-Trent**
Post Office Accommodation, Decision as to improving.
*Q.* Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 25,* 421; *Oct. 31,* 1120.

**Stornoway**
*See* Lewis, Island of.

**Strabane**
Rural District Clerk, Scope of Inquiry with regard to.
*Q.* Mr. McVeigh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 31,* 1129.

**Strachey, Sir E.** [Somerset, S.]
Burwell Estate
Condition of Letting, *Oct. 31,* 1123, 1124; *Nov. 1,* 1303.
Labourers Dispossessed, etc., *Oct. 29,* 709, 710.
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill—Committees of Advice, Formation of and Date of Issuing Regulations, *Oct. 26,* 517.
Ordnance Survey, Maps, Irish, Place of Printing of, *Oct. 29,* 676.

**Straits Settlements**
Currency Ordinance, Provisions of.
*Q.* Sir D. B. Jones; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 30,* 864.
Federated Malay States, 1905—Reports (1905) Presented, *Oct. 23,* 11, 41.
Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23,* 4, 41.

**Street Betting**
*See under* Betting,

**Summerbell, Mr. T.** [Sunderland]
Durham Prison—Price asked for making Ships' Fenders, *Oct. 29,* 694, 695.
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 79.
Pimlico Army Clothing Factory, Reduction in Prices, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25,* 406, 407.
Trinidad, Allegations as to Unemployment in, *Nov. 1,* 1342.

**Swansea**
Post Office Inspection by House of Commons Committee—Refusal of Permission to Members of Postal Telegraph Clerks Association to accompany Committee.
*Q.* Sir G. Newnes; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29,* 707, 708.

**Swansea**—*cont.*
Schools, Voluntary—Resolution of Local Authority as to Cessation of Maintenance.
*Qs.* Lord Balcarres, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Oct. 30,* 888, 889.

**Talbot, Mr. J. G.** [Oxford University]
Prisons—Employment of Prisoners, Cause of Maidstone Outbreak, etc., *Nov. 1,* 1302.

**Taxation**
Inspectors
Service of Thirty - Nine Years, Gratuity given on Retirement.
*Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 29,* 676.
Local
Account Moneys paid into, Distribution of—Return ordered, *Oct. 24,* 178.
Legislative Proposals for Reform.
*Q.* Mr. H. Beach; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 30,* 899.

**Taylor, Mr. A.** [Liverpool, E. Toxteth]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 62, 65, 71, 72, 106, 115, 122, 127, 131, 133, 141, 144, 155, 158–160.

**Taylor, Mr. J. W.** [Durham, Chester-le-Street]
Factories, etc.—Regulations as to Supply of Particulars of Prices to Out-workers, *Oct. 29,* 697.

**Telegraph Service**
*See also names of places.*
Betting by Telegram, Computation of Loss of Revenue which might ensue by Prohibition of.
*Q.* Mr. Hay; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1,* 1335.
Delays in Certain Offices, Cause of.
*Q.* Mr. W. T. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 31,* 1084, 1085.
Foreign Written Press Telegrams—Regulations (1906) Presented, *Oct. 24,* 170, 178.
Re-directed Telegrams, Charge for.
*Q.* Mr. Joyce; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1,* 1336.
Tidal Ports, Irish, Reason for Curtailment of Business Hours at.
*Qs.* Mr. Mooney; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29,* 717, 718.
Wireless Telegraphy, *see that title.*

**Telephone Service**
*See also names of places.*
Betting by Telephone, Proposals for Preventing.
*Q.* Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Nov. 1,* 1336.

**Telegraph and Telephone Services**
Accounts—Return Presented, *Oct. 25*, 391.

**Thomas, Mr. D. A.** [Merthyr Tydvil]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 154–156.
Minister of Commerce, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1347.

**Thornbury**
Vaccination Exemption Certificate—Case of Mr. A. Williams.
*Q.* Mr. Rendall; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 416.

**Thorne, Mr. W.** [West Ham, S.]
Power, Jeremiah, Case of, *Nov. 1*, 1328.
Unemployed Grant, Proposals as to Allocation of, *Nov. 1*, 1335.

**Tibet**
Papers, Proposals as to Tabling.
*Q.* Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Nov. 1*, 1318.

**Tobacco**
Ireland—Area under Cultivation, Proposals for Extension, etc.
*Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Bryce, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Nov. 1*, 1343, 1344.

**Tomkinson, Mr. J.** [Cheshire, Crewe]
Evictions—Progress Made with Reinstatements, *Oct. 29*, 793.

**Tottenham - Walthamstow Light Railways**
Order Presented, *Nov. 1*, 1221, 1296.

**Traction Engines**
*See under* Motors.

**Trade, Board of**
*President*—Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.
*Parliamentary Secretary*—Mr. H. E. Kearley.
Labour Department—Report as to Changes in Rates of Wages, etc., Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 39.

**Trade Disputes Bill**
c. *Con., Nov. 1*, 1349; *Nov. 2*, 1452.
Debates on Consideration [Commons], *Nov. 1*, 1349; *Nov. 2*, 1452.
Act to Remain in Force for Five Years, proposed, 1349–1359.
Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for War, Attitude of towards the Bill, 1364–1369, 1371, 1373, 1374, 1376, 1377.
Clause 1, Omission of, proposed, 1409–1412.
Clause voted against by Mover and Seconder, 1407, 1408.

**Trades Disputes Bill**—*cont.*
Debates on consideration [Com.]—*cont.*
Concessions by the Government to the Labour Party, 1375, 1376, 1381, 1382, 1423.
Definition of a Trade Union, 1393, 1400.
Effect of the Measure upon the Industrial System as a Whole, 1349–1352, 1356, 1357, 1370, 1372.
Immunity of Trade Union Fund from Actions of Tort, Decision as to, 1360–1388, 1409.
Individual Employers, Extending Privileges of the Bill to, proposed, 1452–1459.
Ireland
Agrarian Combinations and Land Disputes, Effect of the Measure on, 1394, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1406.
Exemption of, from Operation of the Act proposed, 1391–1406.
Limitation of Actions against Trade Unions—New Clause proposed, 1360–1364, 1375.
Peaceful Persuasion—Limitation to a reasonable Number,” proposed, 1415–1440.
Picketing, peaceful Persuasion, etc. Attendance at Private Residence, Legality of, 1481–1492.
Following a man from place to place, Legality of, 1495–1506.
Limiting to People concerned in the Dispute, proposed, 1466–1478.
Omission of words “peaceably and in a reasonable manner,” in Clause 2, Reason for, 1415–1440, 1459–1466.
Privilege for the Proletariat, alleged, 1366, 1369, 1377, 1378, 1380.
Privileged Position of Trade Unions since 1871, 1371, 1373, 1382, 1386.
Quinn *v.* Leathem, Case of, 1410.
Taff Vale Decision, 1367, 1368, 1372, 1374, 1378.
Trespass, Liability for, 1509–1512.
Working Classes as a whole not represented by the Labour Party, alleged, 1378, 1379, 1384, 1385.

**Trade Reports**
Annual Series, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 36; *Oct. 25*, 297; *Oct. 26*, 514; *Oct. 29*, 585, 668; *Oct. 31*, 1009, 1084.
Miscellaneous Series Presented, *Oct.23*, 6, 36.

**Trade and Commerce**
Information received from Consuls.
*Q.* Mr. Paul; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 30*, 867.

[*cont.*

**Trade and Commerce**—*cont.*
- Irish Trade Statistics, Progress made with collecting.
  - *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *Oct. 30*, 895.
- Monopolies and Combinations, Proposals for dealing with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Chiozza Money; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Oct. 29*, 702.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Chiozza Money; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Speaker, *Nov. 1*, 1332, 1333.

**Transvaal**
- Chinese Labour
  - Complaints, Procedure in making
    - *Q.* Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31*, 1101.
  - Crimes
    - Comparison with White and Native Population.
      - *Q.* Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1324, 1325.
    - Convictions, Statistics as to.
      - *Q.* Mr. Fullerton; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 24*, 183.
  - Immorality, Result of Inquiry into Charges of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 25*, 393, 394.
  - Statistics as to Number employed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 30*, 878, 879.
- Elections, Date fixed for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29*, 690.
- Finance Act, 1894, Reason for non-application of.
  - *Q.* Colonel Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1324.
- Self-government—Letters Patent, Date of Issue of, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir B. Gurdon; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29*, 674.
- Spirits, Proposals as to Alteration in Duty on.
  - *Q.* Mr. L. Jones; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 29*, 692, 691.
- White Labour, Unemployed, Statistics as to, and cause of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Pickersgill, Sir G. Parker, Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Oct. 31*, 1101.

**Trawling**
- Protection of Fishing Grounds against illegal Trawling.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Oct. 31*, 1118, 1119.

**Treasury**
- *First Lord*—Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

**Trevelyan, Mr. C. P.** [Yorkshire, W.R., Elland]
- De Ramsey, Lord, Estates of—Allotment-holders served with Notices to quit, etc., *Oct. 29*, 699.

**Trinidad**
- Unemployment in, Allegations as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Nov. 1*, 1324.

**Trinidad and Tobago**
- Report (1905–6) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 4, 41.

**Trinity College, Dublin**
- *See under* Ireland.

**Tristan-da-Cunha**
- Further Correspondence Presented, *Oct. 23*, 9, 41.

**Tuberculosis**
- Bovine Tuberculosis Commission Report, Date of Presenting.
  - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 24*, 184.

**Tuckingmill**
- Explosives Factory, Report on Fire at, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 10, 37.

**Turkey**
- Trade Report Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5, 6.

**Turks and Caicos Islands**
- Report, Annual, Presented, *Oct. 23*, 3, 41.

**Turnour, Lord** [Sussex, Horsham]
- Burwell Estate
  - Conditions of Letting, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1303.
  - Labourers dispossessed, *Oct. 29*, 710.
- Fowler, Rex *v*—Procedure in Trial, etc., *Nov. 1*, 1341.
- House of Commons Construction—alleged Breach of Privilege by Alterations, *Oct. 23*, 57, 58.
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 137.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 25*, 484, 491; *Oct. 29*, 739; *Oct. 30*, 988, 994; *Oct. 31*, 1143, 1170, 1178.
- Reductions, Proposals as to, *Nov. 1*, 1313.

**Unemployed**
- Distress Committees—Circular No. 1—Names of Committees sent to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 29*, 677.
- Grant, Proposals as to Allocation of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Ashley, Mr. H. Cox, Mr. Thorne; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Nov. 1*, 1335.

**United States of America**
- Alaskan and Canadian boundary—Convention Presented, *Oct. 30*, 814, 858.

**Ure, Mr. A.** — *Solicitor-General for Scotland* [Linlithgowshire]
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 2*, 1485.

**Vaccination**
- Prosecutions—Stay of further Proceedings pending Legislation, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Scott ; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Oct, 31,* 1096.

**Verney, Mr. F. W.** [Buckinghamshire, N.]
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 2,* 1457, 1458.

**Victoria**
- Parliamentary Representation of public Officers, etc.—Constitution Act (1906), Presented, *Oct. 23,* 14,48.

**Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H.** [Sheffield, Central]
- Aliens.
  - S. Biron, T. Genen and J. Gureivitz, Cases of, *Oct. 30,* 885, 886.
  - Undesirables not admitted to United States, Treatment of, on Arrival in England, *Oct. 30,* 881, 882.
- Gipsies, Alien, Expulsion of, proposed, *Oct. 25,* 414, 415.
- Military Training in Schools, Decision as to, *Oct. 29,* 706.
- Newfoundland Fisheries, *modus vivendi* with United States as to—Precedent for Course adopted, *Oct. 30,* 878.
- Public Trustee Bill, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25,* 431.
- South African War Stores, Inquiry into supply of — Distinction made in Punishments awarded, etc., *Oct. 25,* 403, 406.

**Vivisection**
- Royal Commission
  - Constitution of.
    - *Qs.* Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Lupton ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25,* 419.
  - Privacy of Sittings, Decision as to and Precedents for
    - *Qs.* Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. G. Greenwood, Mr. Lupton ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 31,* 1108.

**Volunteers**
- Training, Decision as to Period for, etc.
  - *Qs.* Sir S. Scott ; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 30,* 875.

**Wakefield**
- Schools, Fees charged at—Case of A. Whiteley.
  - *Q.* Mr. Snowden ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Nov. 1,* 1337.

**Wakefield, Bishop of**
- Education (England and Wales Bill), *Com., Oct. 30,* 848 ; *Oct. 31,* 1025, 1026, 1032, 1033,

**Wallace, Mr. R.** [Perth]
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 25,* 461-463.

**Walton, Sir J. L.**—*Attorney-General* [Leeds, S.]
- Blackler, Rex *v*—Report of Proceedings, etc., *Oct. 29,* 712.
- Corrupt Practices Act
  - Political Placard, Powers of Landlord to threaten Tenant for exhibiting *Oct. 29,* 714
  - Rex *v* Fowler—Case of, *Oct. 29,* 712, 713 ; *Nov. 1,* 1340-1342.
- Maesteg—Allegation as to throwing two of non-Unionists into a River, *Oct. 30,* 892.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 26,* 531, 532, 534, 539, 542, 560, 569.
- Trade Disputes Bill, *Con., Nov. 1,* 1354, 1380, 1383, 1399, 1420, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1427, 1428, 1433 ; *Nov. 2,* 1455, 1459, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1498-1501, 1511, 1515.

**War Office**
- *Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
- *Parliamentary Under-Secretary*—Earl of Portsmouth.
- *Financial Secretary*—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
- Contracts
  - Inspection Depôt in Dublin, Progress made with.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Oct. 26,* 519, 520.
  - Meat Contracts, French System of Meat Supply, Adoption of, proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 24,* 185.
- Munitions of War, Allocation of Contracts for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Chiozza Money ; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Oct. 31,* 1089.

**Ward, Mr. J.** [Stoke-on-Trent]
- Bengal, Partition of — Parliamentary Discussion, proposed, *Nov. 1,* 1318.
- Coroners' Inquests, Right of Trade Union Officials to attend as Representative of Deceased, *Oct. 30,* 883.
- Matches, Prohibition of use of White Phosphorus for — Reason for Refusal of British Delegates to Sign Convention at Berne, *Oct. 25,* 417.
- Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con., Oct. 23,* 150.
- Military Instruction in Elementary Schools, Proposals as to, *Oct. 25,* 425 ; *Oct. 29,* 706 ; *Oct. 30,* 888.
- Nigeria — South Nigeria Proclamation No, 15 (1903), Date of Issue of, *Nov. 1,* 1326.
- Plural Voting Bill, *Com., Oct. 24,* 261 ; *Oct. 25,* 465 ; *Oct. 29,* 726.
- Stoke-on-Trent, Post Office Accommodation, *Oct. 25,* 421 ; *Oct. 31,* 1120.

**Wardle, Mr. J. G.** [Stockport]
- Imperial Stock and Share Exchange, Circular Issued by — Decision as to Proceedings, *Oct. 29*, 695.
- London and North Western Railway Company—Scheme for Pension Fund, *Oct. 29*, 703.
- Salisbury Railway Disaster — Inquiry into Case of Guard, proposed, *Oct. 29*, 703.

**Wason, Mr. J. C.** [Orkney and Shetland]
- Africa, West—Formation of Council for Administration of British Colonies, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1325.
- Nigeria — South Nigeria Proclamation No. 15 (1903), Provisions of, *Nov. 1*, 1326.

**Watt, Mr. H., Case of**
- Sentence, Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 23*, 53; *Oct. 30*, 884.

**Waygood & Co., Messrs.**
- Wages paid by — *see under* Government Departments.

**Wedgwood, Mr. J. C.** [Newcastle-under-Lyme]
- Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Funds, Information as to, *Nov. 1*, 1342.
- Juvenile Offenders
  - Committals during 1905–6, *Oct. 31*, 1092.
  - Imprisonment for Non-payment of Fines, Proposals for Obviating, *Oct. 31*, 1102.

**Weights and Measures**
- Inspection — Effect of New Regulations.
  - *Qs.* Colonel Lockwood; *As.* Mr. Lloyd George, *Nov. 1*, 1334.

**Weir, Mr. J. G.** [Ross and Cromarty]
- Agricultural Holdings in Highland Crofting Counties, *Oct. 30*, 869.
- Cromarty, Sanitation of—Tabling Dr. Dittmar's Report, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1118.
- India
  - Bengal—Chowkidari Tax, Remission of, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1306.
  - Telegraph Rates to, Reduction of, proposed, *Nov. 1*, 1304.
- Lewis, Island of
  - Aignish Settlement, Person responsible for Valuation of, *Oct. 31*, 1118.
  - Dittmar's, Dr., Report, Tabling of, proposed, *Oct .30*, 893, 894.
  - Sanitary Condition, Proposals for Improving, *Oct. 30*, 893.
  - Stornoway, Sanitation of—Tabling Dr. Dittmar's Report, proposed, *Oct. 31*, 1118.

**Weir, Mr. J. G.**—*cont.*
- Medical Inspectors, Scottish, Increasing Number of, proposed, *Oct. 30*, 894.
- Motors
  - Accidents in Metropolis during September, *Oct. 31*, 1093.
  - Excessive Speed, Penalty for, *Oct. 31*, 1113.
  - Omnibuses, Side-slip, Accidents due to and Proposals for Preventing, *Oct. 31*, 1105.
- Trawling, Illegal, Protection of Fishing Grounds against, *Oct. 31*, 1118.

**Wenlock, Lord**
- Education (England and Wales) Bill—Rates and Taxes, Additional Expenditure to be thrown on, *Oct. 23*, 34.

**West Indies**
- *See also names of Islands.*
- Canada, Steamship Service to—Agreements Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 41.
- Inter - Colonial Services—Contract Presented, *Oct. 23*, 7, 41.
- Mail Service, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 29*, 708.

**West Riding Appeal Case**
- *See under* Education (England and Wales) Religious Instruction.

**Westminster County Court**
- Rebuilding, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Oct. 31*, 1096.

**Wexford**
- Shop Hours Act, Order made under, Presented, *Oct. 29*, 586, 668.

**White, Mr. J. D.** [Dumbartonshire]
- Africa, West—Prospectus of British West Africa Produce Company, Ltd., *Nov. 1*, 1320.

**Whitechapel**
- Poor Law Relief System—Attitude of Guardians towards Outdoor Relief, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Alden, Mr. Crooks; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Oct. 31*, 1115.

**Whitehead, Mr. R.** [Essex, S.E.]
- Railway and Canal Commissioners—Proposals for Appointing, *Nov. 1*, 1331.
- Shoebury
  - Firing Practice of June 4th, Result of Inquiry as to, *Nov. 2*, 1451.
  - Fisheries, War Office Purchase of—Decision as to Issue of Regulations etc., *Nov. 1*, 1316.

**Whiteley, Mr. G.**—*Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury* [Yorks, W.R., Pudsey]
Business of the House, Course of, *Nov. 2*, 1519.

**Wilkie, Mr. A.** [Dundee]
Dock Regulations, Alleged Evasion of, *Oct. 25*, 395.

**Williamson, Mr. A.** [Elgin and Nairn]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 63.

**Wilson, Mr. A. S.** [Yorks, E.R., Holderness]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 24*, 196; *Oct 29*, 753, 759; *Oct. 30*, 967.
Strangers, Espial of—Question of Privilege, *Oct. 24*, 187.

**Wilson, Mr. C. H.** [Hull, W.]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 150.

**Wilson, Mr. H. J.** [Yorks, W.R., Holmfirth]
Military Training in Schools—Education Board Sanction to Teaching of Rifle Shooting, *Oct. 29*, 681.

**Wilson, Mr. J. H.** [Middlesbrough]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 72, 73, 104, 116–118, 124, 127–130, 132, 135–137, 139, 141, 145, 148, 150.

**Wilson, Mr. W. T.** [Lancashire, S.E., West Houghton]
Bolton Poaching Case—Sentences on Prisoners, etc., *Oct. 30*, 883, 884.
Telegraph Delays in Certain Offices, Cause of, *Oct. 31*, 1084.

**Winfrey, Mr. R.** [Norfolk, S.W.]
Burwell Estate, Leasing of, *Oct. 31*, 1124.
De Ramsey, Lord, Estates of—Allotment Holders served with Notices to Quit, etc., *Oct. 29*, 699.

**Wireless Telegraphy**
Conference at Berlin
Opportunity for discussing Report, *Qs.* Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Oct. 25*, 421.
Powers of British Delegates. *Q.* Major Seely; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 29*, 719.

**Wolff, Mr. G. W.** [Belfast, E.]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 122.

**Women's Franchise Movement**
Disturbance in Lobby by Suffragettes.
Pankhurst, Miss., Sentence on. *Qs.* Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 419, 420; *Oct. 26*, 518.
Sentences Inflicted, proposals for release of Disorderly Persons, etc. *Q.* Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 26*, 519.
Treatment as First-class Misdemeanants, proposed *Qs.* H. Law, Mr. Masterman, Mr. K. Hardie, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Byles; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct, 31.* 1108–1110.
Legislative Proposals of the Government. *Q.* Sir G. Doughty; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Oct. 30*, 873.

**Workmen's Compensation Act**
Insurance in certain Trades, Effect on. *Q.* Mr. Cochrane; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 30*, 870.
Proceedings—Statistics Presented, *Oct. 23*, 8, 38.

**Workmen's Compensation Bill**
Insurance in certain Industries, Effect on. *Q.* Mr. Cochrane; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Oct. 25*, 394, 395.

**Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S.** [Sheffield, Hallam]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 110.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 26*, 537; *Oct. 29*, 756; *Oct. 31*, 1198.
Trade Disputes Bill, *Con.*, *Nov. 1*, 1358.

**Wyndham, Rt. Hon. G.** [Dover]
Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment (No. 2) Bill, *Con.*, *Oct. 23*, 105.
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 30*, 999.

**Younger, Mr. G.** [Ayr Burghs]
Plural Voting Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31*, 1153.

**Zanzibar and Pemba**
Trade Report (Pemba) Presented, *Oct. 23*, 5.

**Zouche of Haryngworth, Lord**
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *Oct. 31*, 1041.